
2024

WOMEN AND MEN, GIRLS AND BOYS IN CAMEROON



MINISTRY OF WOMEN'S
EMPOWERMENT AND THE
FAMILY



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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

BUCREP	Central Bureau of Census and Population Studies
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CEMAC	Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa
CFAF	Central African CFA Franc
COP21	Paris Climate Agreement
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
ECAM	Cameroon Household Survey
EESI	Survey on Employment and Informal Sector
ESG	General Secondary Education
ESTP	Technical and Vocational Secondary Education
FIES	Food Insecurity Experience Scale
GAD	General Affairs Department
GDB	Gender-Based Violence
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IEC	Internal Efficiency Coefficient
ILO	International Labor Organization
IWD	International Women's Day
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MINDDEVEL	Ministry of Decentralization and Local Development
MINEDUB	Ministry of Basic Education
MINEFOP	Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training
MINEPAT	Ministry of the Economy, Planning and Regional Development
MINESUP	Ministry of Higher Education

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

MINFI	Ministry of Finance of Cameroon
MINJUSTICE	Ministry of Justice of Cameroon
MINSANTE	Ministry of Public Health of Cameroon
MINSEC	Ministry of Secondary Education of Cameroon
MINT	Ministry of Transport of Cameroon
NEET	Not in Employment, Education, or Training
NGP	National Gender Policy
NIS	National Institute of Statistics
OHADA	Organization for the Harmonization of Business Law in Africa
ONEFOP	National Observatory for Employment and Vocational Training
PCS-LLIN	Post-Campaign Survey on the Use of Long-Lasting Insecticide-Treated Mosquito Nets
PEZ	Priority Education Zone
RGPH	General Census of Population and Housing
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SFI	Synthetic Fertility Index
SND30	The National Development Strategy 2020–30
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infections
TFR	Total Fertility Rate

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FOREWORD

With the adoption of a new National Development Strategy for the period 2020-2030, the Government of Cameroon has made the commitment to pursue the implementation of the Beijing Platform, more than two decades after its adoption. Moreover, considerations regarding gender equality and women's empowerment remain a constant priority for the government and are cross-cutting issues that must be reflected in development policies, programs and projects at both national and local levels.

In a bid to provide development stakeholders with the information they need to monitor and assess the progress made in achieving gender equality and equity, the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family, in collaboration with the National Institute of Statistics and with the technical and financial support of the World Bank, has produced this booklet entitled 'Women and Men, Girls and Boys in Cameroon'. This statistical overview is intended to highlight some of the 'gendered' data produced by various sector administrations and to ease the identification of any differences in the life situation of men and women in Cameroon.

As a tool for promoting inclusive economic growth strategies, this booklet will not only be a technical instrument to support the drafting of development programs and projects, but also an advocacy tool for stimulating social dialogue, mobilising resources and coordinating gender-responsive interventions. In this light, this document will be of particular interest to government policymakers as well as local authorities, who will thus be equipped with a major tool for determining national priorities, planning, implementing and assessing development initiatives designed to guarantee equality between men and women. It will also be of use to civil society organisations, bilateral and multilateral cooperation partners and researchers, who will be able to tailor and harmonise their actions aimed at promoting gender equity and equality with national priorities and guidelines adopted in this area.

Ultimately, this booklet is intended for the various segments of the population, communities, opinion leaders, traditional and religious authorities, women and men, girls and boys, whose concerns will be expressed as development priorities for better consideration in law-making, development policies, programming and allocation of resources.

FOREWORD

The Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family wishes to express its profound gratitude to sector statistics experts for their invaluable contribution to the production of this booklet. The Ministry also acknowledges all those who, in one way or another, contributed to the preparation of this document, especially the World Bank for its technical and financial assistance. Furthermore, the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family hopes that this booklet will meet the expectations of its users and will serve as a tool for improving the integration of gender equality and equity into development programs in Cameroon.

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Minister of Women's Empowerment and the Family

INTRODUCTION

The follow up of the 2020-2030 National Development Strategy requires data and statistics that are disseminated to a good number of users. This is in addition to the United Nations' Agenda 2030, the African Union's Agenda 2063 and national development plans. National Statistical Systems (NSS) contribute to responding to requests for data regarding these different Agendas, for example, by setting up a national data platform on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) indicators and by producing and disseminating a huge quantity of data and statistical information.

One of the challenges faced by the National Statistical Systems is to produce gender-specific data which can satisfy a wide range of users. As a matter of fact, a vast majority of actors in these systems have insufficient knowledge of gender issues in general and gender statistics in particular. However, the production and dissemination of gender specific statistics is a key element for the monitoring and evaluation system of the SDGs at international, national and local levels, the NDS30 and especially the 2021-2030 National Gender Policy.

Actually, Cameroon is still ranked as a Tier 2 country at the global level, that is, a country where data collection and production of gender-sensitive statistics is irregular. Most often, data on gender is not available in many sectors. For example, of the 52 gender indicators used for monitoring the SDGs, only 35 of them comply with internationally recognised measurement standards, and for which data is regularly collected. For the other gender indicators, data collection in the country is irregular or non-existent.

Despite the significant efforts made in recent years to produce gender-disaggregated statistics in some areas, particularly during major national surveys (MICS, EDS, RGPH, REGAE, EESI, etc.), it is worth noting that where data on gender exist, they are disorganised and sometimes outdated. This renders the planning and monitoring of public policies on gender equality and women's empowerment rather approximate, with no credible benchmarks or targets.

This is why the Cameroon Government, through the Ministry Women's Empowerment and the Family has set as long-term objective to provide data needed for planning and monitoring of gender-sensitive development, which aims at accompanying the country towards emergence.

INTRODUCTION

The "Women and Men, Girls and Boys in Cameroon" booklet was produced using an inclusive and participatory approach, with the involvement of public and semi-public administrations, that are members of the National Statistical System. The various stages that marked its drafting process focused on the organisation of a methodological guideline workshop, a training workshop, the collection and processing of secondary data as well as several data validation meetings. This document, which follows a series of other publications produced by the Ministry Women's Empowerment and the Family, contributes to enriching this work.

This document, which does not only intend to inspire, but also aims to measure the progress made, is expected to be a simple and accessible tool for all users of statistical data. It provides an overview of the respective situations of women and men in the areas of demography, health, education, employment, assets, gender-based violence, peace and justice, participation and decision-making.

1. GENERAL CONTEXT

1.1 Definitions and principles

For several decades, it has been increasingly recognized that the promotion of human rights and the fight against poverty cannot be achieved without eliminating inequalities between women and men, and girls and boys, in all sectors of development and at all levels of social life. Linking the issue of gender equality and women's empowerment to sustainable development and economic growth has become unavoidable in all aspects of economic and social policies and in the evolution of societies. The resulting public and private initiatives, underpinned by the principle of equality between human beings as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, must therefore be designed, articulated, and directed in such a way as to eliminate discrimination against women.

In line with this international movement, the Government of Cameroon is resolutely committed to promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women by subscribing to and adhering to international and regional legal instruments, as well as to the directives of the major international conferences organized over the last few decades under the aegis of the United Nations. The Government of Cameroon's determination to promote the building of a just, democratic society and a state governed by the rule of law, in which equality between women and men is a fundamental value, is enshrined in the preamble to the Constitution of January 18, 1996, and is reflected in the various national development frameworks that have gender issues as a cross-cutting theme.

Achieving such a goal requires real changes in how we analyze the sectoral policies aimed at Cameroon's development. Consequently, it is necessary to highlight inequalities between women and men in all areas, wherever possible, in order to analyze the determinants of the inequalities observed and to develop, on the basis of the differences observed, effective and relevant response strategies and policies to achieve equality.

The commitment of the Government of Cameroon to achieve equality therefore justifies the adoption of the gender approach as a tool for analysis, planning, implementation, monitoring, and

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evaluation of development policies. To adopt this approach, the Government of Cameroon needs reference tools and guidance frameworks to drive overall momentum and inform sectoral initiatives designed to ensure that development processes, as well as other areas of public and private life, equitably consider the differentiated needs and interests of men and women.

Developed in 2010 and adopted in 2014, Cameroon’s National Gender Policy is applied through a multisectoral action plan aimed at implementing strategies in all areas. That policy, intended for the period 2011–2020, has been revised to take into account new programmatic frameworks (the international Agenda 2030, the African Union’s Agenda 2063, and Cameroon’s National Development Strategy 2020–2030), as well as new challenges facing the country (such as decentralization, the humanitarian situation, and the implementation of gender-sensitive budgeting).

Overall, Cameroon’s political, economic, and social environment is conducive to gender equality and women’s empowerment. The country has always demonstrated a political will to promote all social components. Cameroon is a signatory to most international and regional conventions and treaties protecting and promoting women’s rights (see Annex 1).

At the domestic level, Cameroon is striving to take gender into account in all sectors and at all levels of national life. However, gender disparities persist and are becoming systemic issues, affecting all sectors and hindering inclusive growth in Cameroon.

Gender in Cameroon

Gender refers to:

“Gender refers to the roles, behaviors, activities and attitudes that society deems appropriate for men and women at a given moment. It refers to women and men, boys and girls, and their relationship to each other and within different groups. It also refers to the relationships between groups of women and groups of men. These roles and attitudes are socially constructed and acquired through socialization. They vary from one society to another and over time. These

1. GENERAL CONTEXT

relationships or interactions between women and men generate disparities, inequalities and injustices that the gender-sensitive approach to development aims to address.”^[1]

Applied to development, gender is based on three main principles. First, men and women create society, perpetuate it, and determine the distribution of tasks; however, the benefits and costs are unevenly distributed. Women must, therefore, be given greater consideration, as they have been more disadvantaged than men. Second, women and men have different relationships with society and, despite a certain interdependence, often operate in different sectors of the community. Their priorities and perspectives are therefore different. Because of gender roles, men may limit or expand the options available to women. Finally, development affects men and women differently, and both exert a different influence on projects. Advancing the interests of the community requires involving both men and women in identifying problems and solutions. As can be seen, the notion of gender in development is considered in Cameroon in its classic sense, i.e. it is addressed to men, women, girls and boys.

1.2 Legal framework

Cameroon’s legal landscape is favorable to the promotion of equality between women and men. In its fundamental Law no. 96/06 of January 18, 1996, Cameroon reaffirmed its people’s commitment to the principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations Charter, and the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights. In this respect, the preamble to the Constitution states that “every human being, without distinction of race, religion, sex or creed, has inalienable and sacred rights,” and that “all human beings (men and women) are equal in rights and duties.”

The reinforcement of women’s rights is also present in Cameroon’s internal legal orders, particularly the Civil Code (1804), the Non-Contentious Probate Rules, the Wills Act (1837), the Administration of Estate Act (1925), and the Matrimonial Causes Act (1973). These orders contain numerous provisions derived from both civil and common law, protecting women’s rights, such as the establishment of inheritance rights for women, property and extra-patrimonial rights, and the

^[1] National Gender Policy 2011-2020.

1. GENERAL CONTEXT

Organization for the Harmonization of Business Law in Africa's Uniform Act on General Commercial Law, which allows a married woman to carry on a commercial activity separate from that of her husband. Other provisions are as follows:

- 1981: Ordinance no. 81/02 of June 29, 1981, on the organization of civil status in Cameroon, recognizes the right of a married woman to exercise a trade different from that of her husband.
- 1990: Law no. 90/053 of December 19, 1990, on freedom of association, promotes the inclusion of women at the head of political parties.
- 1992: Law no. 92/007 of April 14, 1992, on the Labor Code, contains provisions to safeguard women's employment during childbirth and maternity leave, and to protect women from certain types of work deemed hazardous to their health.
- 1994: On August 23, 1994, Cameroon ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
- 1994: Decree no. 94/199 of October 7, 1994, on the general status of the civil service, opens access to the Cameroonian civil service to all citizens without gender discrimination.
- 1995: Decree no. 95/048 of March 8, 1995, on the status of the judiciary and subsequent amendments.
- 1997: In 1997, Cameroon created the Ministry of Women's Affairs, with enhanced powers of intervention. This ministry is responsible for drawing up and implementing measures to protect the rights of Cameroonian women, eliminate all forms of discrimination against women, and increase guarantees of equality in the political, economic, social, and cultural spheres. Under the supervision of the Ministry of Women's Affairs, the Consultative Committee for the Advancement of Women is responsible for studying any question relating to the status or condition of Cameroonian women, issuing opinions on draft texts submitted to the ministry, and proposing actions or programs designed to ensure the participation of women in development efforts.

1. GENERAL CONTEXT

- 2004: Decree no. 2004/320 of December 8, 2004, on the organization of the government, established the Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and the Family, the main body responsible for gender equality and women’s empowerment in Cameroon. This Ministry replaced the former Ministry of Women’s Affairs (1997).
- 2005: Law no. 2005/007 of July 27, 2005, on the Code of Criminal Procedure, sets out the principle of equality in criminal proceedings and provides for special treatment for pregnant or breast-feeding women.
- 2009: Law no. 2009/04 of April 14, 2009, on the organization of legal aid, grants legal aid to unemployed and destitute women who have been abandoned by their spouses, enabling them to obtain court judgments enforcing alimony payments for the women and any minor children left in their care.
- 2011: Law no. 2011/024 of December 14, 2011, on the fight against human trafficking and smuggling, protects women and children against acts such as sexual and economic exploitation.
- 2011: Decree no. 2011/020 of February 4, 2011, on the special status of Registry civil servants, promotes equal access to certain functions, including equal treatment.
- 2012: Decree no. 2012/638 of December 21, 2012, on the organization of the Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and the Family.
- 2012: Law no. 2012/001 of April 19, 2012, on the Electoral Code, makes it compulsory to consider gender in the composition of electoral lists (art. 246).
- 2012: Decree no. 2012/539 of November 19, 2012, on the Special. Rules and Regulations governing the National Security Corps.
- 2016: Law no. 2016/007 of July 12, 2016, on the Penal Code, includes many provisions that can be invoked to punish attacks on the physical or moral integrity of women.

1. GENERAL CONTEXT

1.3 Political and strategic frameworks

Vision 2035

At the programmatic level, Cameroon’s shared development vision for 2035 is that of “an emerging country, democratic and united in its diversity.” Achieving this vision means, in economic terms, that Cameroon has entered the era of sustainable social development, with a strong, diversified, and competitive economy. As such, Vision 2035 addresses gender issues, particularly in section III.1 on national integration and consolidation of the democratic process.

To support Vision 2035, the Government of Cameroon, under the leadership of the Ministry of the Economy, Planning and Regional Development, and with the support of the United Nations System, has been engaged since December 2015 in the process of inclusive localization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

As a result of this process, 153 out of 169 targets were contextualised for Cameroon. With regard to SDG 5, “Gender equality,” Cameroon has retained all its targets, namely 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6, 5.a, 5.b, and 5.c. Several other targets, dealing specifically with gender issues, have also been contextualized, particularly the gender-relevant targets of SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 13, and 16.

As a result, gender-related targets represent 19.6 percent of all contextualized targets. Given that contextualized targets will be implemented progressively rather than simultaneously, a major innovation introduced in the Agenda 2030 concerns the prioritization process for contextualized targets. Of the 30 contextualized gender-specific targets, Cameroon has prioritized 19, representing 63.3 percent of contextualized gender-specific targets and 16.5 percent of all prioritized targets.

The National Development Strategy

The new National Development Strategy for 2020–2030 (SND30) incorporates the need for greater social cohesion to ensure that the fruits of growth benefit all Cameroonians, and that these fruits are the result of a collective effort, in a spirit of national solidarity. This goal is why the cherished principle of equity and balanced development guides all the orientations and priorities set out in the SND30 document.

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In addition, the SND30 is in line with the objectives of the Agenda 2030 on sustainable development and takes into account the major orientations of other supranational agendas (the African Union's Agenda 2063, the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa's Vision 2025, the Paris Climate Agreement (COP21) and so on). The 2025 Vision ensures that there is sufficient emphasis on actions related to the SDGs within each corresponding sector.

As far as gender is concerned, the SND30 announces commitments to equality between men and women, because gender inequality is a factor of underdevelopment and a major problem to be solved in order to achieve economic growth. In section 4.5.4 on the promotion of gender and equity, the SND30 document specifies the following government intentions for the period covering the strategic development framework: (1) pursue its policy of equitable access for girls and boys, and men and women, to education, training, and information; (2) strengthen programs to encourage female and youth entrepreneurship; (3) intensify consultations with the banking system to open up credit to this subpopulation; (4) intensify measures to combat gender-based violence; (5) enact principles to ensure better representation of women and young people in public and political life; and (6) continue to strengthen the institutional framework for the promotion and protection of women's rights. In addition to this section, all four pillars of the SND30 address gender issues, either explicitly or implicitly.

1.4 National Gender Policy 2011-2020

To meet the challenges it faces in terms of gender, particularly the achievement of the related SDGs, the Government of Cameroon has also adopted a National Gender Policy (2011–2020) to serve as a guiding framework for interventions that promote gender equality and equity. The overall objective of this policy is to contribute to the systematic elimination of inequalities between women and men at all levels of national life.

Sector Strategies

The government has also drawn up sectoral and thematic strategies integrating gender. They include the National Strategy to Combat Gender-Based Violence (2022–2026); the National Action Plan of United Nations Resolution 1325 and related resolutions on "Women, Peace and Security" (2022–2026); the National Action Plan against Female Genital Mutilation; the Women and

1. GENERAL CONTEXT

Families Sector Plan; the Sectoral Plan to Combat STIs and HIV/AIDS; and sectoral strategies for health, the rural sector, and education.

Gender-sensitive budgeting

Cameroon's strong commitment to gender equality is reflected in its budget preparation. Various presidential circulars relate to the preparation of the state budget, and circular n°00000023/C/MINFI of August 02, 2022, relates to the integration and evaluation of gender-sensitive budgeting in the state budget. These various texts call for the effective and efficient implementation of the multisectoral National Gender Policy plan, through the appropriate programming of actions by each ministry.

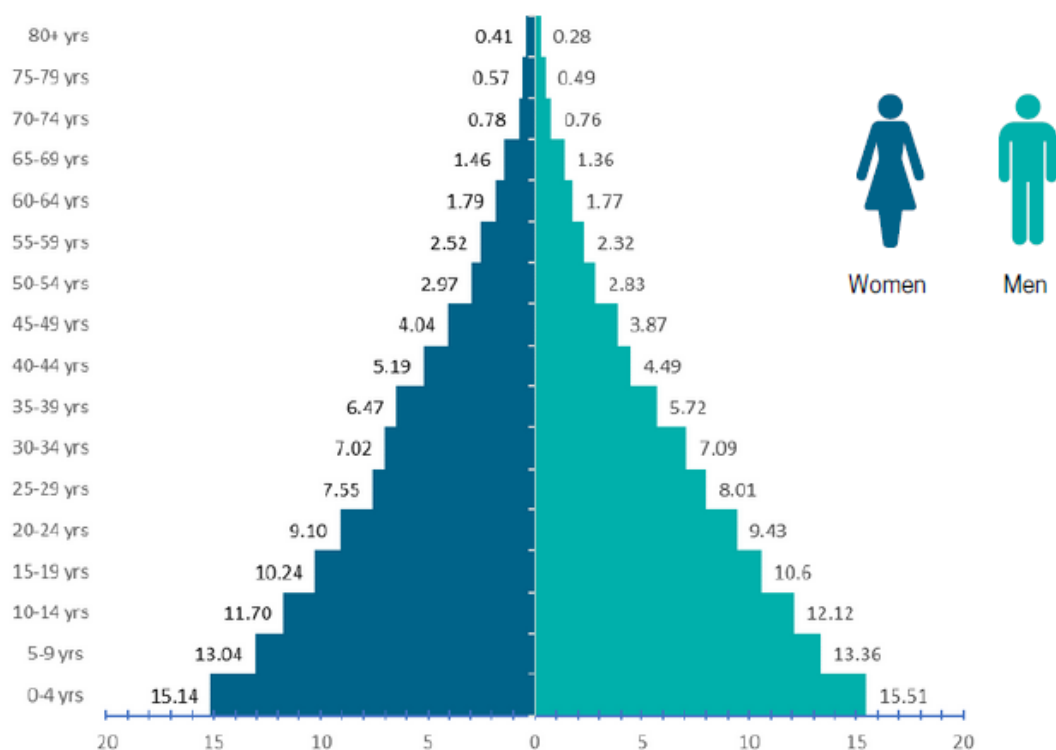
In parallel with these actions taken at the highest level, Cameroon produced for the first time in 2021 and 2022 a Gender Sensitive Budget Document appended to the 2022 and 2023 Finance Law. This document guides public action to promote equality between women and men, and girls and boys, by establishing the essential links between the policies implemented and the resulting budget allocations. Its main objective is to present the government's efforts to promote equality between women and men by analyzing, from a gender perspective, the programs and projects linked to ministerial budgets and their impact on the population.

2. DEMOGRAPHICS

2.1 Structure of the population and household heads

As in other Sub-Saharan African countries, Cameroon's age pyramid has a very broad base that narrows as one approaches older age groups (figure 2.1.1). This shape generally denotes a very young population, with high fertility and mortality rates. People under the age of 15 account for about 45 percent of the population. Moreover, the population structure reveals that the population's gender asymmetry fluctuates with age, depending on whether circumstances favor one gender or the other. Between the ages of 0 and 34, the male population is larger than the female population. Over the age of 34, the population is predominantly female.

Figure 2.1.1: Age pyramid – Distribution of population, by sex and age (%)



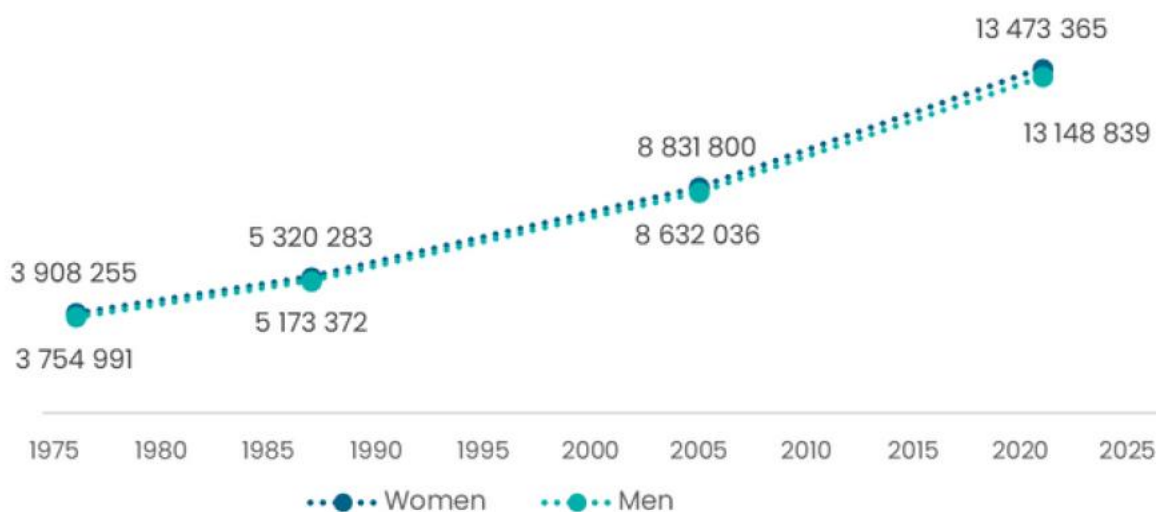
Source: Cameroon National Institute of Statistics, Third Survey on Employment and the Informal Sector in Cameroon, 2021
Cameroon's large population poses major challenges, particularly in terms of education, with the need to enroll a growing number of school-age children. In addition, the country's young population could act as a barrier to women's participation in the labor market, insofar as the growing need for childcare will likely

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increase the time women devote to unpaid domestic work, to the detriment of the time they devote to paid work.

In recent decades, Cameroon’s population has grown steadily. This demographic growth has been slightly faster for women than for men. The number of women rose from 3,908,255 in 1975 to 8,831,800 in 2015 and 13,473,365 in 2021; the number of men rose from 3,754,991 in 1975 to 8,832,038 in 2015 and then to 13,148,839 in 2021 (figure 2.1.2). Thus, women and girls accounted for just over half (50.6 percent) of the total population in 2021 (figure 2.1.3).

Figure 2.1.2: Size of Cameroon’s population, by sex and selected years



Sources: Cameroon Central Bureau of Population Censuses and Studies, General Census of Population and Housing 1976, 1987, and 2005 and Cameroon National Institute of Statistics, Third Survey on Employment and the Informal Sector in Cameroon, 2021.

While a slight majority of the population are women, the majority of household heads^[2] are men. In 2021, the proportion of female household heads was 29.6 percent (figure 2.1.3 and figure 2.1.4). Despite a slight decrease in recent years, a gender gap persists in both urban and rural areas. In urban areas, about 30 percent of households are headed by women. This figure drops to 26 percent in rural areas (figure 2.1.4).

^[2] The head of household is defined as the person in charge of the household, recognized as such by all household members.

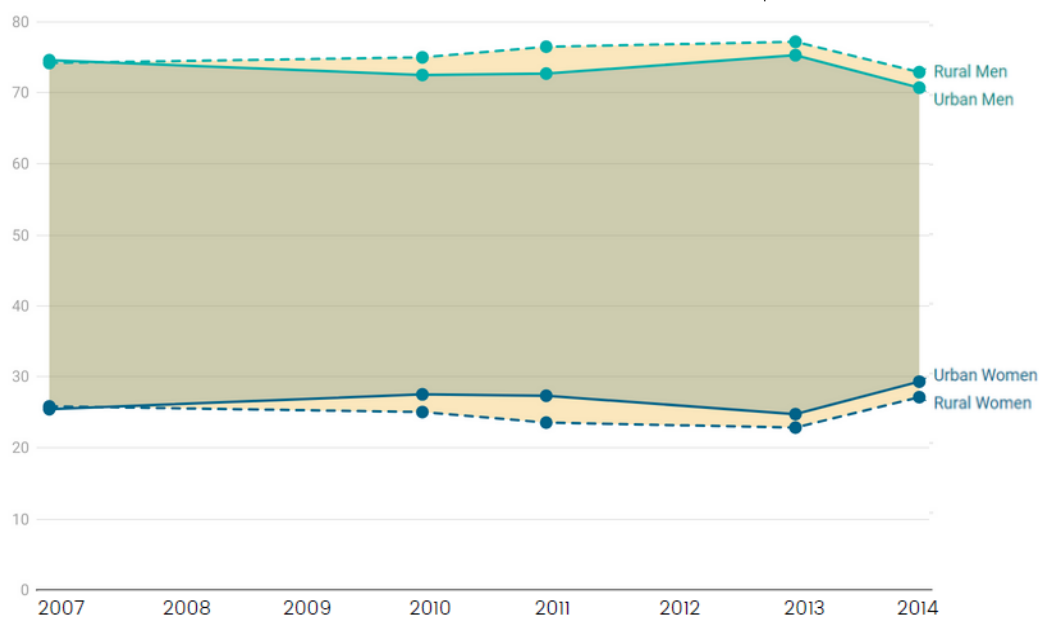
2. DEMOGRAPHICS

Figure 2.1.3: Distribution of population and household heads, by sex (%)



Source: Cameroon National Institute of Statistics, Third Survey on Employment and the Informal Sector in Cameroon, 2021

Figure 2.1.4: Distribution of household heads, by sex and place of residence (%)



The rural gender gap, shown in light yellow (), is larger than the urban gender gap shown in dark yellow ().

Sources: Cameroon National Institute of Statistics, Third and Fourth Cameroon Household Survey 2007 and 2014; Second Survey on Employment and the Informal Sector in Cameroon, 2010; Demographic and Health Survey–Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2011; Post-campaign survey on the use of Long-Lasting Insecticidal Nets, 2013.

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2.2 Population characteristics

Income poverty

Income poverty varies according to socio-demographic characteristics. Three indicators can be used to analyze income poverty. The first indicator, “incidence of poverty”, measures the percentage of households whose consumption expenditure is below the monetary poverty line for a given population (defined as the consumption level below which an individual is considered poor)³. On average, as shown in Figure 2.2.1, the incidence of poverty is higher in male-headed households (38.9 percent) than in female-headed households (32.8 percent). However, this finding does not necessarily imply that men are poorer than women on average. Indeed, because this indicator is measured at the household level, it does not capture the disparities between women and men. Moreover, most women live in households headed by men.

The second indicator “poverty intensity” measures the difference between the average income of poor people and the poverty line. Figure 2.2.1 shows that poverty intensity is higher in male-headed households (15.1 percent) than in female-headed households (12.1 percent).

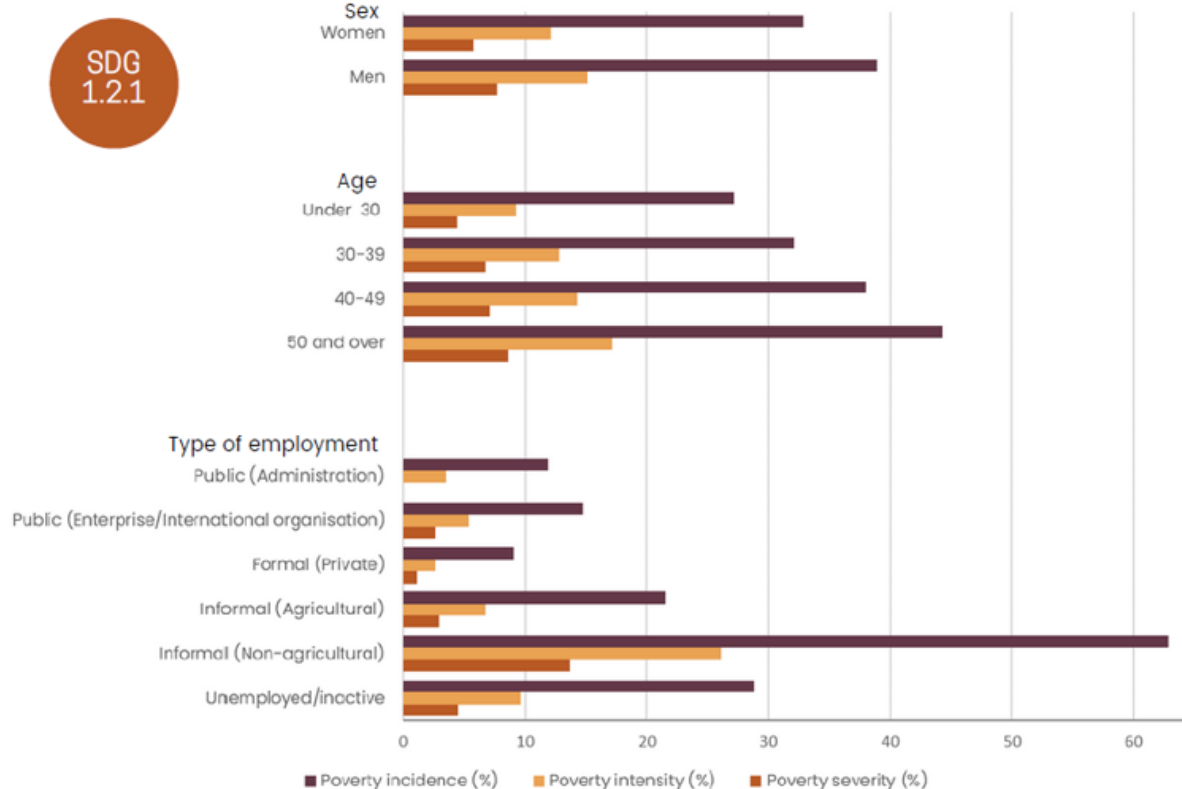
The third indicator is “poverty severity”, which measures inequalities between poor individuals. Figure 2.2.1 shows that poverty severity is estimated at 7.7 percent in male-headed households and 5.8 percent in female-headed households.

Analysis by age of the head of household shows that monetary poverty increases with age. It is lowest in households with a household head under the age of 30. Figure 2.2.1 shows that in this group of households, the incidence of poverty is estimated at 27.1 percent, the intensity of poverty at 9.3 percent, and the severity of poverty at 4.4 percent. Income poverty peaks among households with a household head age 50 or older, with poverty incidence estimated at 44.3 percent, poverty intensity at 17.1 percent, and poverty

[3] The monetary poverty line in Cameroon is set at 339,715 CFA francs (CFAF) per adult equivalent per year in 2014 (or CFAF 28,310 per month or CFAF 931 per day). From the Fourth Cameroon Household Survey (ECAM4), *Rapport tendance, profil et déterminants de la pauvreté entre 2001–2014*, National Institute of Statistics, December 2015

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Figure 2.2.1: Poverty index by socio-demographic characteristics of the head of household (%)



Sources: World Bank using Fourth Cameroon Household Survey/ SSAPOV database of harmonized nationally representative household surveys / Global Monitoring Database

Socio-professional category also determines poverty levels. The data show that the poorest households are those whose head of household works in the informal non-agricultural sector, followed by households with an unemployed head of household and households with a head of household who works in the informal agricultural sector (figure 2.2.1). These findings are indicative of the low quality of jobs available to the poor and they align with the estimations from the International Labor Organization (ILO), suggesting that in the contexts of high informality, deficits in employment quality largely contribute to poverty among the working population, more so than unemployment.^[4] The monetary poverty is relatively low among households headed by a person working in private or public sector companies or organizations.

^[4] International Labour Organization 2019. “The Working Poor or How a Job is no Guarantee of Decent Living Conditions”. ILOSTAT Spotlight on Work Statistics n°6 – April 2019.

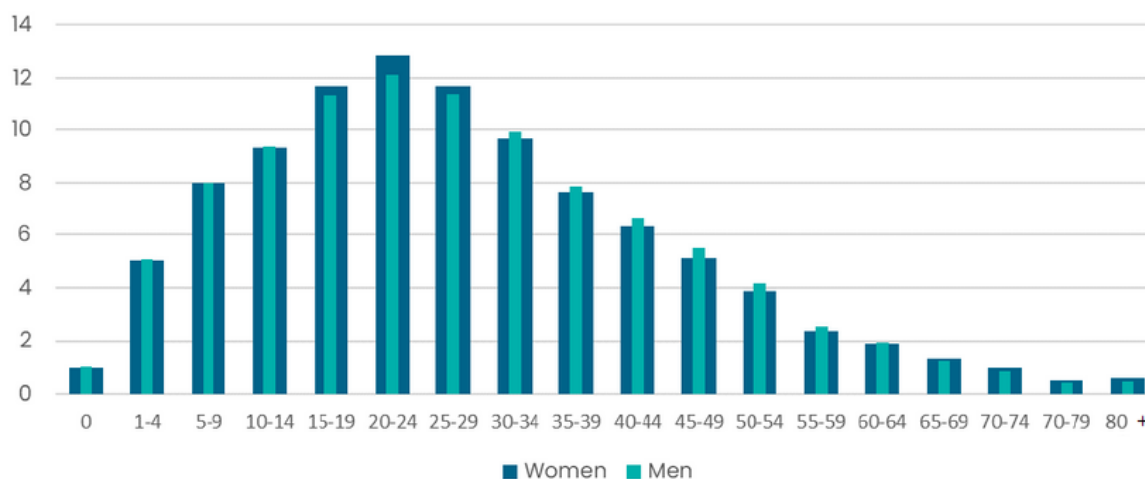
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International migration

International migration accounts for a significant proportion of all migration flows to Cameroon. In 2005, the country recorded 482,132 international migrants, representing 8.9 percent of the whole migrant population and 2.76 percent of the total population that year (RGPH, 2005).

The gender structure of international migrants reveals disparities by age (figure 2.2.2). The rate of international migration is almost the same for both genders in the under-15 and over-65 age brackets. Between the ages of 15 and 29, female immigrants are slightly more numerous than males; however, the situation is reversed among international migrants aged 30–59.

Figure 2.2.2: Distribution of international migrants, by sex and age (%)



Source: Central Office for Population Surveys and Studies, Third General Census of Population and Housing, 2005

Prevalence of disabilities

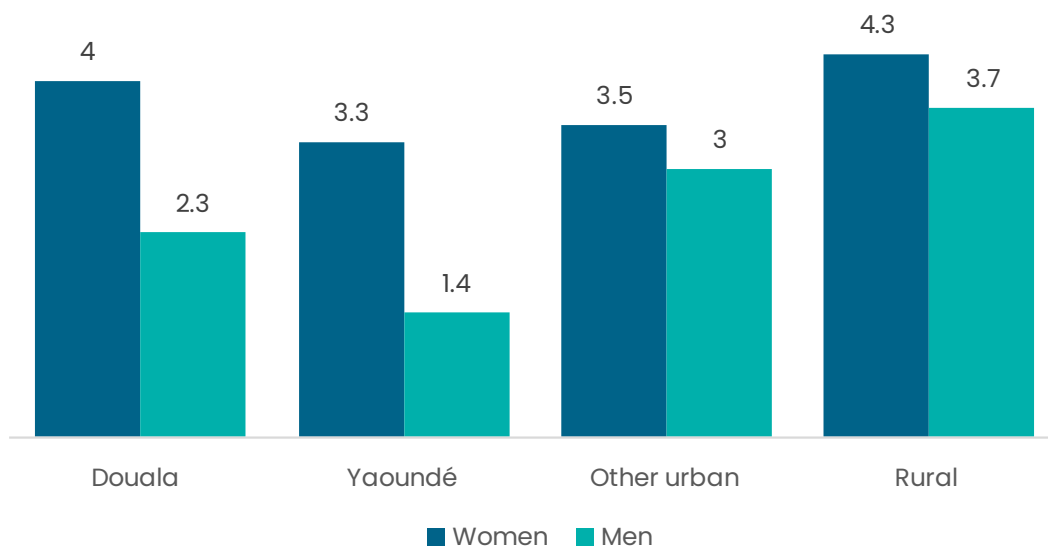
People with disabilities are typically defined as those with difficulty seeing, hearing, walking, focusing, self-caring and communicating, and include persons with leprosy, mental illness, and albinism (RGPH 2005). An analysis by sex and place of residence shows that the incidence of disability is higher among women than among men and the difference exists in both rural and urban areas (figure 2.2.3).

In fact, in the city of Douala, 4.0 percent of women have a disability, compared with 2.3 percent of men (a difference of 1.7 percentage points). The gender gap in disability is slightly wider in the city of Yaoundé, with 3.3 percent of women suffering from a disability versus 1.4 percent of men (a gap of 1.9 percentage points).

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In rural areas, the gender gap in disability drops drastically to 0.6 percentage points (4.3 percent for women vs. 3.7 percent for men). Since disability is associated with barriers that limit or reduce access to education and employment, the higher prevalence among women can exacerbate gender inequalities in education and employment.

Figure 2.2.3: Prevalence rate of disability in the population aged 15 and above, by sex and place of residence (%)



Source: Cameroon National Institute of Statistics, Third Survey on Employment and the Informal Sector in Cameroon, 2021

Life expectancy at birth

At first glance, there is good reason to believe that the population of Cameroon is living longer and longer. Over the past two decades, life expectancy at birth has improved overall for both men and women. Between 2005 and 2018, men's life expectancy rose by 5.6 years, and women's increased by 3.8 years (figure 2.2.4). Nevertheless, gender disparities in longevity persist. Overall, women live longer than men, with life expectancy at birth of about 60 years for women versus 58 years for men in 2018, according to statistics from Cameroon's National Institute of Statistics.

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Figure 2.2.4: Life expectancy at birth, by sex and selected years(years)



Sources: Central Office for Population Surveys and Studies, Third General Census of Population and Housing, 2005; Statistical Yearbook 2019

2.3 Trends in marriage, sexual activity, and fertility

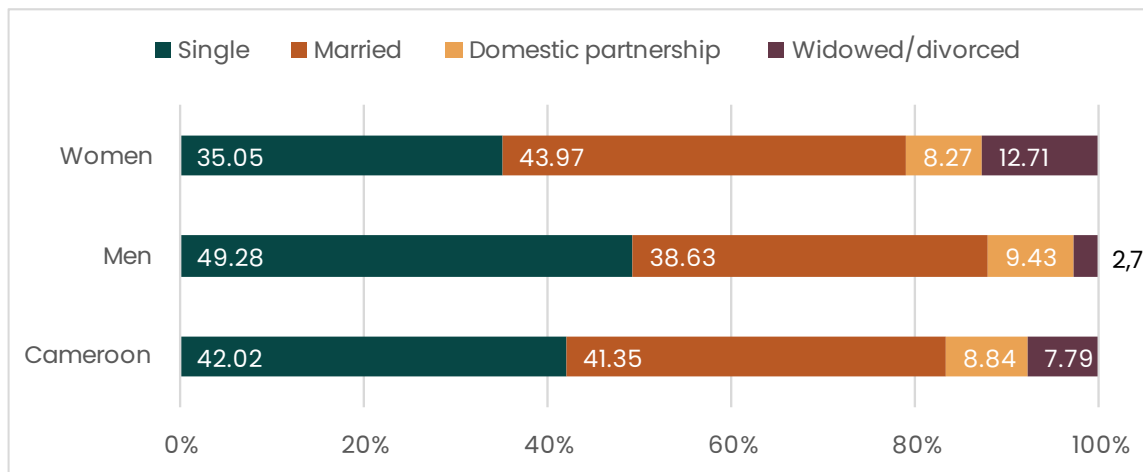
Marital status

Regarding marital status, the majority of individuals (aged 15 and over) are single (42 percent) or married (41.4 percent). The high number of widows represents a major challenge for society, given the related harmful effects on women and children. In addition to the trauma of losing their spouses, widows face economic instability, discrimination, stigmatization, and harmful traditional practices: widows may be dispossessed of their land, evicted from their homes, or even separated from their children. They may also be denied access to their late husband's inheritance and bank accounts—potentially inflicting significant economic damage on widows and their children, and exacerbating gender disparities, particularly in terms of poverty.

The distribution of adult women and men (aged 15 and over) according to marital status is unequal. More men than women are single (49.3 percent for men versus 35.1 percent for women), whereas being married and/or in a domestic partnership is more common among women (52.3 percent for women vs. 48 percent for men). Women are more likely than men to be widowed (12.7 percent versus 2.7 percent of men).

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Figure 2.3.1: Distribution of women and men, by marital status (%)



Source: Cameroon National Institute of Statistics, Third Survey on Employment and the Informal Sector in Cameroon, 2021

Age at first marriage, first sexual activity, and first birth

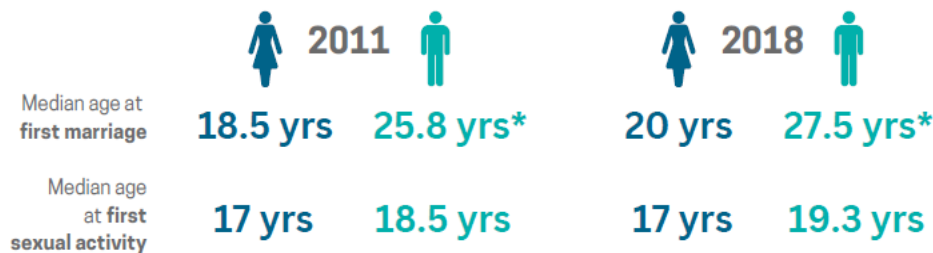
In Cameroon, as in most Sub-Saharan African countries, women are generally younger than men at the time of their first union. In recent years, however, the age at first marriage has risen steadily for both men and women. Between 2011 and 2018, the median age at first marriage rose from 18.5 to 20 for women aged 25-49. During the same period, the median age at first marriage rose from 25.8 to 27.5 for men aged 30-49 (figure 2.3.2).

Despite increasing delays in the onset of married life, the age at which sexual activity begins remains relatively stable, particularly among women. Women start their sexual lives at an earlier age than men, and this gap seems to be widening over time (figure 2.3.2). The average age at first sexual intercourse for women remained stable at 17 between 2011 and 2018. Figure 2.3.2 also shows that among men there is a slight increase in the average age at first intercourse, from 18.5 in 2011 to 19.3 in 2018.

Women begin their sexual lives at an earlier age than men. The age of first sexual activity also varies by age cohort, place of residence, and level of education. As shown in figure 2.3.3, cohort statistics show that younger cohorts had their first sexual encounter later than older cohorts.

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Figure 2.3.2: Median age at first marriage and first sexual activity, by sex and selected years (years)



Sources: Cameroon National Institute of Statistics, Demographic and Health Survey, 2011 and 2018. Note: The sample age range is 25–49, with the exception of the "median age at first marriage" for men, which is 30–49 in 2011 and 2018.

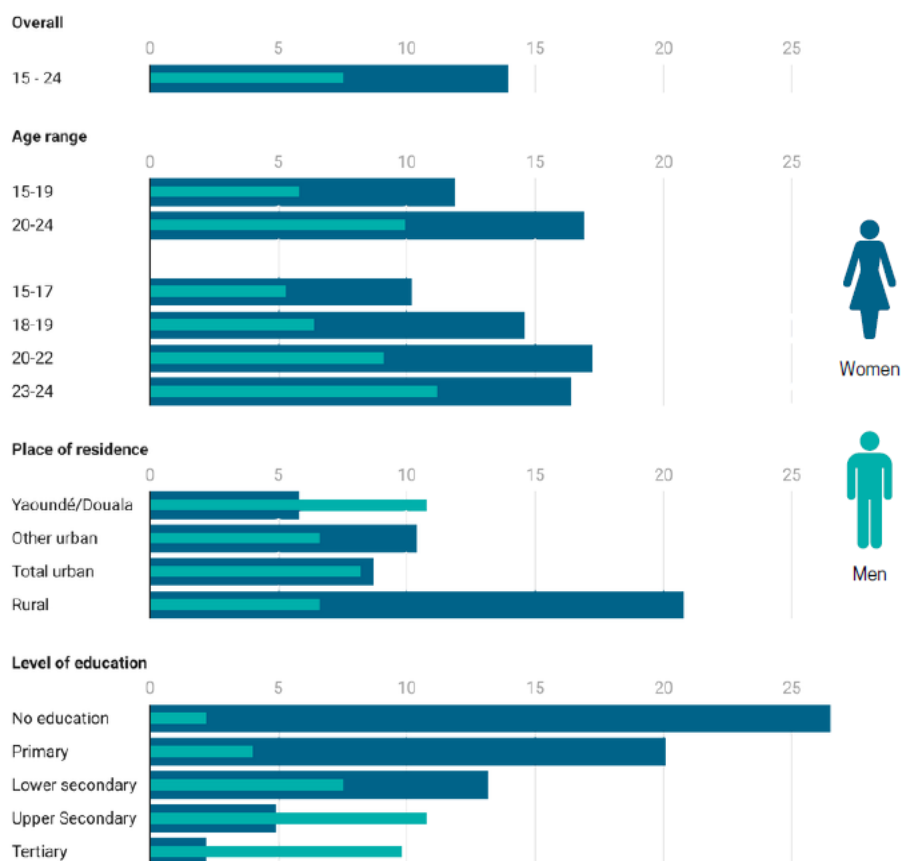
As shown in figure 2.3.3, the percentage of women who had sexual intercourse for the first time before the age of 15 rose from 11.9 percent among those aged 15–19 to over 16 percent among those aged 23–24. That increase is even greater for men: the percentage of young men who had their first sexual encounter before the age of 15 rose from 5.8 percent among those aged 15–19 to 11.2 percent among those aged 23–24.

The difference between the sexes in terms of age at sexual debut is much greater in rural than in urban areas. In rural areas, 20.8 percent of young women aged 15–24 had sexual intercourse for the first time before the age of 15, compared with only 6.6 percent of their male counterparts (figure 2.3.3). By contrast, in urban areas, 8.7 percent of women versus 8.2 percent of men aged 15–24 had sexual intercourse for the first time before the age of 15.

Concerning disparities by level of education, the proportion of men who began sexual activity before the age of 15 increases with the level of education, whereas the same proportion for women decreases with the level of education (figure 2.3.3). An estimated 26 percent of uneducated women began their sexual lives before the age of 15, compared with 2.2 percent of uneducated men. For those with primary and lower secondary education, the proportion of women who started their sexual lives before the age of 15 fell to 20.1 percent and 13.2 percent, respectively; this proportion rose to 4 percent for men with primary education and 7.5 percent for those with lower-secondary education.

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Figure 2.3.3: Percentage of young women and men who had their first sexual encounter before the age of 15, by sex and selected socio-demographic characteristics (%)



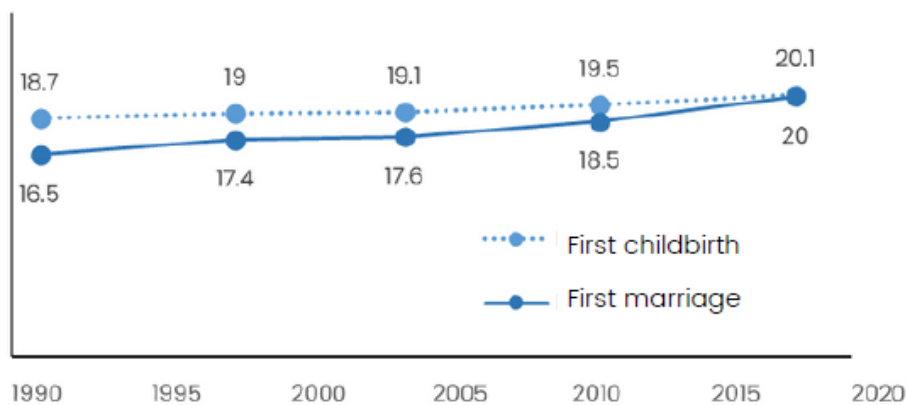
Sources: Cameroon National Institute of Statistics, Demographic and Health Survey, 2018

For women with upper-secondary and tertiary education, the proportion of those who began their sexual lives before the age of 15 fell further, to 4.9 percent and 2.2 percent respectively. For men, however, the figures rose to 10.8 percent for those with upper secondary education and 9.8 percent for those with tertiary education (figure 2.3.3).

In Cameroon, motherhood begins fairly early: 29 percent of women aged 20–49 have their first child before the age of 18, and 6.3 percent give birth for the first time before the age of 15 (DHS 2018). However, looking at data from the last three decades, the trend has changed slightly. The onset of childbearing is occurring later and later, perhaps because of women’s increasing levels of education (see section 4). The median age at first childbirth has risen by almost two years over the last two decades, from 18.7 in 1991 to 20.1 in 2018 (figure 2.3.4).

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Figure 2.3.4: Median age of women at first marriage and first childbirth, among women aged 25-49 (years)



Source: Cameroon National Institute of Statistics, Demographic and Health Survey, 1991, 1998, 2004, 2011, 2018

Fertility

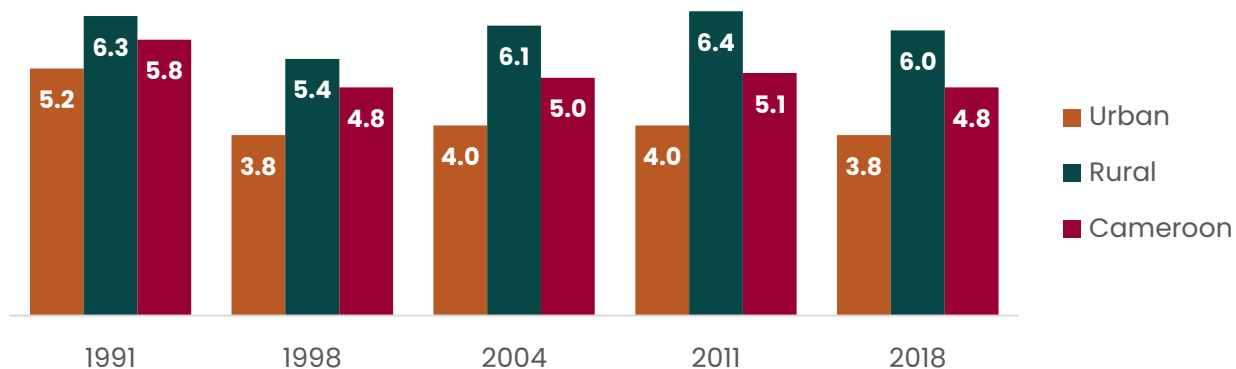
In Cameroon, fertility declined substantially between 1991 and 2018, as revealed by a decrease in the total fertility rate^[5] from 5.8 children per woman in 1991 to 4.8 children per woman in 2018 (figure 2.3.5). This decline was greater in urban than in rural areas. According to data from DHS, between 1991 and 2018, the total fertility rate fell from 6.3 to 6.0 children per woman (down 0.3 percentage point) in rural areas and from 5.2 to 3.8 children per woman (down 1.4 percentage points) in urban areas. The fertility rate among teenage girls aged 15–19 has fallen substantially in Cameroon but remains relatively high, especially in rural areas and among uneducated women.

Overall, this rate fell from 164 births per 1,000 women to 122 births per 1,000 women between 1991 and 2018 (figure 2.3.6). The decline in the teenage fertility rate is most noticeable in households belonging to the highest wealth quintile (a drop from 101 births to 41 births per 1,000 women). This drop could be explained by the increase during the same time period in the proportion of women aged 15–24 whose family planning needs have been met from 6 percent to 49 percent (see section 3.1).

^[5] Total fertility rate refers to the number of children that a hypothetical female would have over the course of her reproductive life if she experienced the age-specific fertility rates observed in a given calendar year. Fertility rates by age are calculated for the period of 3 years preceding the survey, based on the detailed birth history provided by the women (Demographic and Health Surveys, 2018).

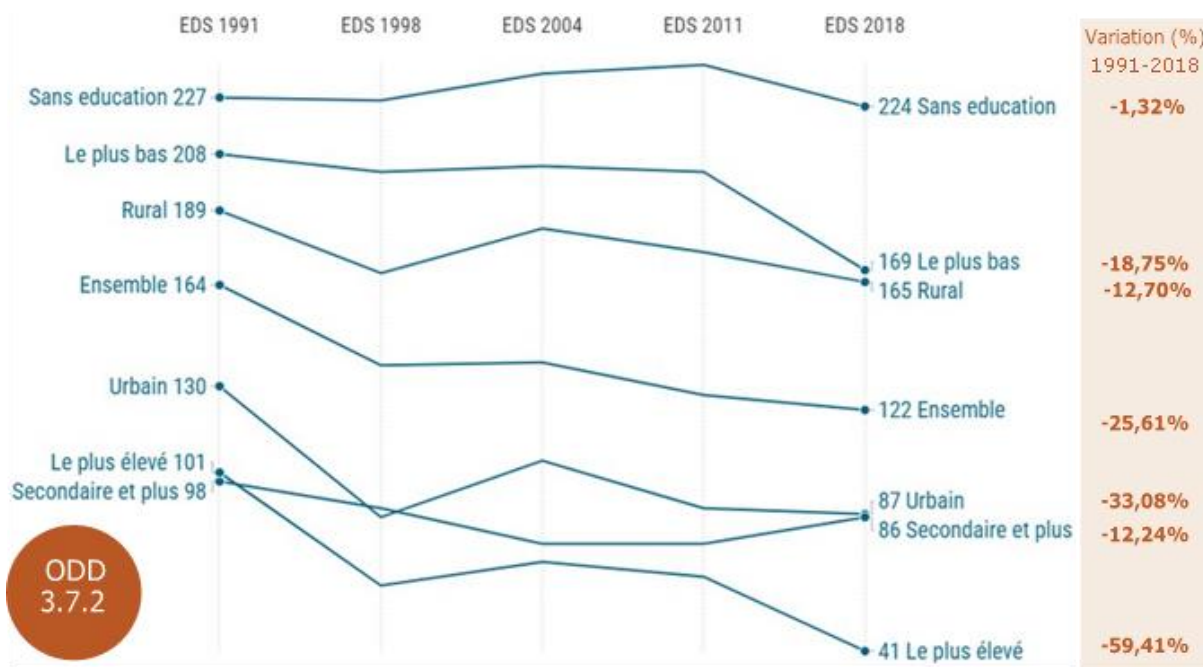
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Figure 2.3.5: Cameroon's total fertility rate, by place of residence, 1991–2018 (number of children per woman aged 15-49)



Source: Cameroon National Institute of Statistics, Demographic and Health Survey, 1991, 1998, 2004, 2011, 2018

Figure 2.3.6: Adolescent fertility rate for the three years preceding the survey, by selected socio-demographic characteristics (births per 1,000 young women aged 15-19)



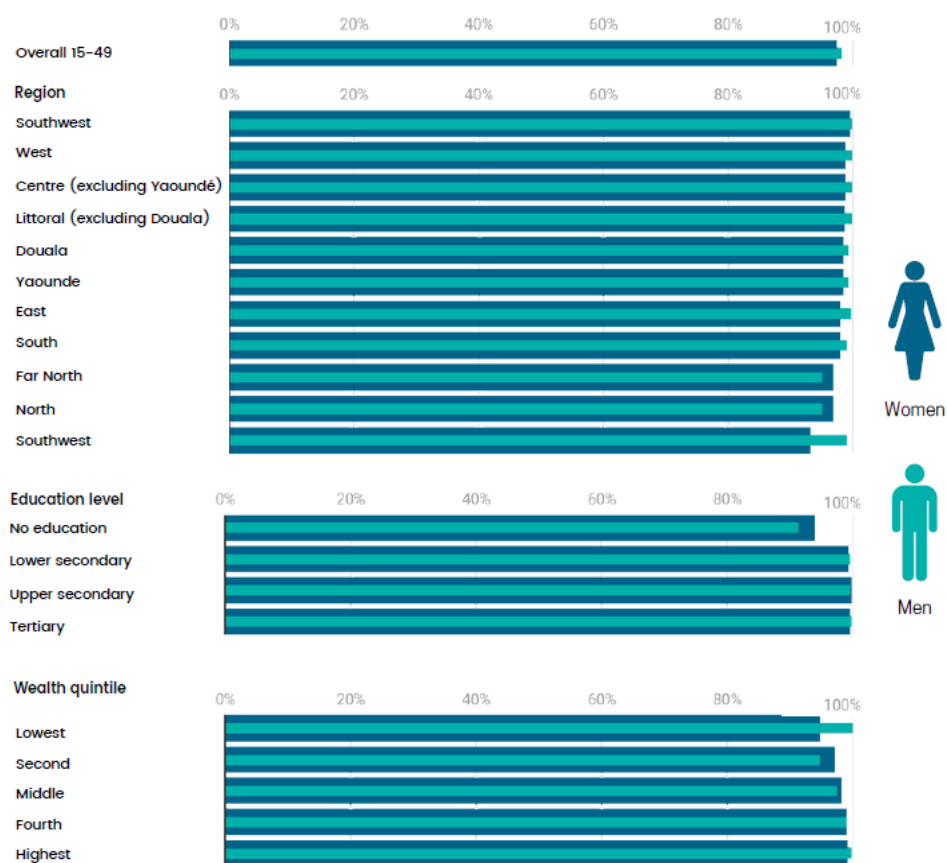
Sources: Cameroon National Institute of Statistics, Demographic and Health Survey, 1991, 1998, 2004, 2011, 2018

3. HEALTH

3.1 Family planning

Knowledge of modern contraception methods ^[6] is universal in Cameroon (figure 3.1.1).

Figure 3.1.1: Proportion of the population aged 15-49 with knowledge of modern contraceptive methods, by sex and socio-demographic characteristics (%)



Sources: Cameroon National Institute of Statistics, Demographic and Health Survey, 2018

Some 97 percent of women and 98 percent of men aged 15–49 living in couples reported having heard of at least one modern contraceptive method. Modern contraceptive prevalence varies, however, according to place of residence, level of education, and level of wealth. The proportion of women with knowledge

^[6] Modern methods of contraception include male and female sterilization, injectables, intrauterine device (IUD), birth control pills, implants, male and female condoms, Standard Days Method (SDM), breastfeeding, lactational amenorrhea (LAM) and emergency contraception (Demographic and Health Surveys, 2018).

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of modern contraceptive methods is lower in the Northwest region, among women with no education, and among women living in households in the lowest wealth quintile (figure 3.1.1). Despite the high reported knowledge on contraception, almost three out of five women aged 15–49 have unmet family planning needs.

Figure 3.1.2: Percentage of women aged 15–49 whose family planning needs are met, by socio-demographic characteristics (%)



Sources: Cameroon National Institute of Statistics, Demographic and Health Survey, 1991, 1998, 2004, 2011, and 2018.

The proportion of women whose family planning needs have been met has risen steadily over time, from 11 percent in 1991 to 34 percent in 2004, and to 44 percent in 2018, with clear differences by level of education and wealth (figure 3.1.2). In 2018, the proportion of women of childbearing age reporting satisfaction with modern contraceptive methods was 15 percent for uneducated women and over 50

3. HEALTH

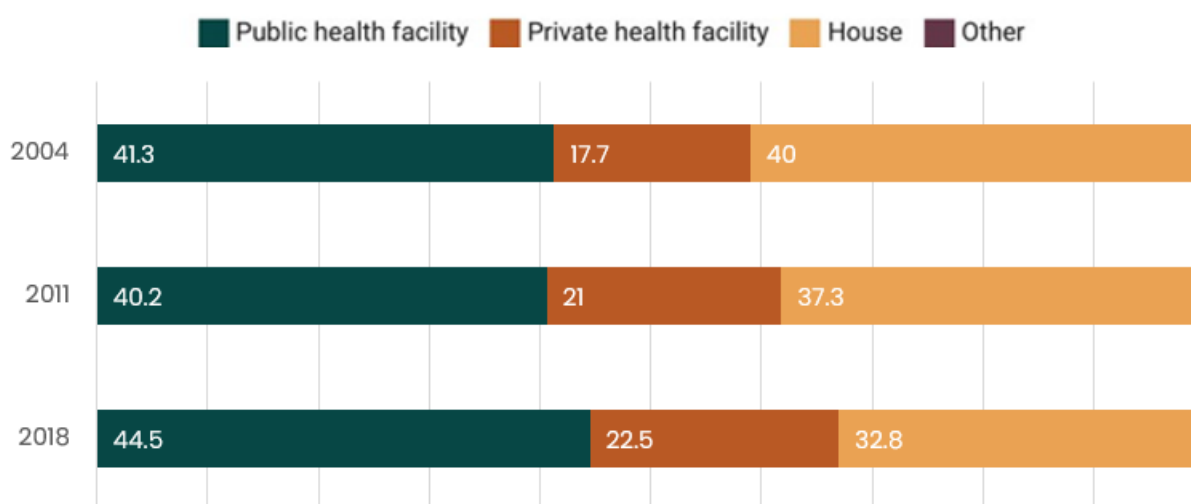
percent for women with at least secondary education. Similarly, the rates were 20 percent and 55 percent, respectively, for women living in households classified in the bottom and top wealth quintiles (figure 3.1.2).

3.2 Maternal health

Prenatal care and delivery services

Delivery assisted by trained personnel in a health facility is one of the four pillars ^[7] of maternal mortality reduction. DHS data collected in 2018 indicate that, among live births in the five years preceding the survey, nearly 7 out of 10 (69 percent) took place in a public or private health facility. Of those births, most (44.5 percent) took place in public health facilities, 22.5 percent in private health facilities. However, a relatively high proportion of births took place at home (32.8%). Between 2004 and 2018, the percentage of births taking place at home gradually decreased, from 40 percent in 2004, to 37.3 percent in 2011, then to 32.8 percent in 2018 (figure 3.2.1).

Figure 3.2.1: Distribution of live births in the 5 years preceding the survey, by place of birth, and selected years (%)



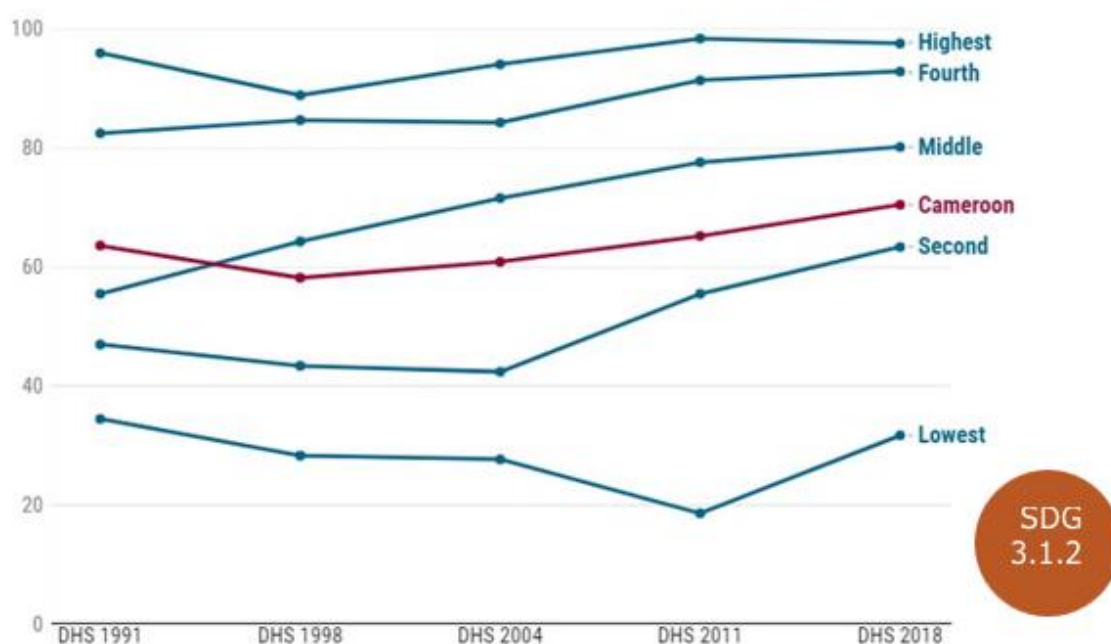
Source: Cameroon National Institute of Statistics, Demographic and Health Survey, 2004, 2011, and 2018

^[7] The four pillars of maternal mortality reduction are family planning, prenatal care, skilled attendance at birth, and access to emergency obstetric care.

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Looking at a second pillar of maternal mortality reduction—assistance by medical personnel—and taking into account the mother’s standard of living, DHS data reveal that the proportion of births assisted by a trained provider tends to increase from the poorest to the richest. In 2018, the proportion of births attended by a professional was 29 percent in the lowest wealth quintile versus 98 percent in the highest (figure 3.2.2).

Figure 3.2.2: Percentage of live births attended by a skilled birth attendant, by household wealth quintile (%)

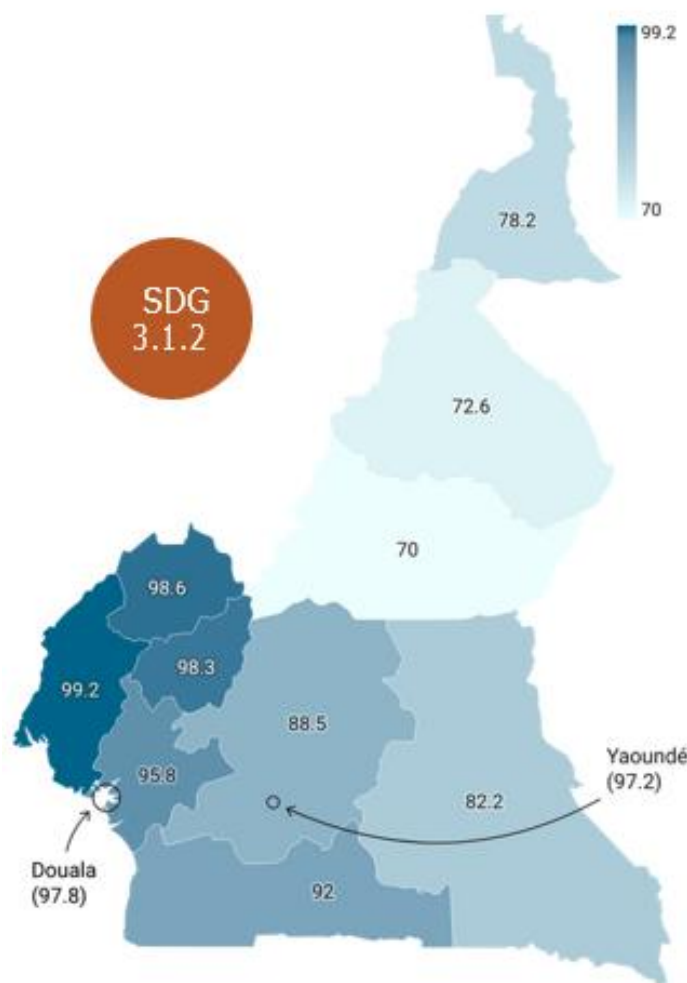


Source: Cameroon National Institute of Statistics, Demographic and Health Survey, 1991, 1998, 2004, 2011, and 2018.

Importantly, spatial analysis shows that prenatal care coverage by a health professional—a third pillar—is not homogeneous across all regions of the country. The Adamawa, North, and Far North regions have the lowest coverage rates, at 70 percent, 72.6 percent, and 78.2 percent, respectively (figure 3.2.3).

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Figure 3.2.3: Proportion of women aged 15-49 who had a live birth in the 5 years preceding the survey and who received antenatal care for the most recent birth from a trained birth provider, by region (%)



Sources: Cameroon National Institute of Statistics, Demographic and Health Survey, 2018

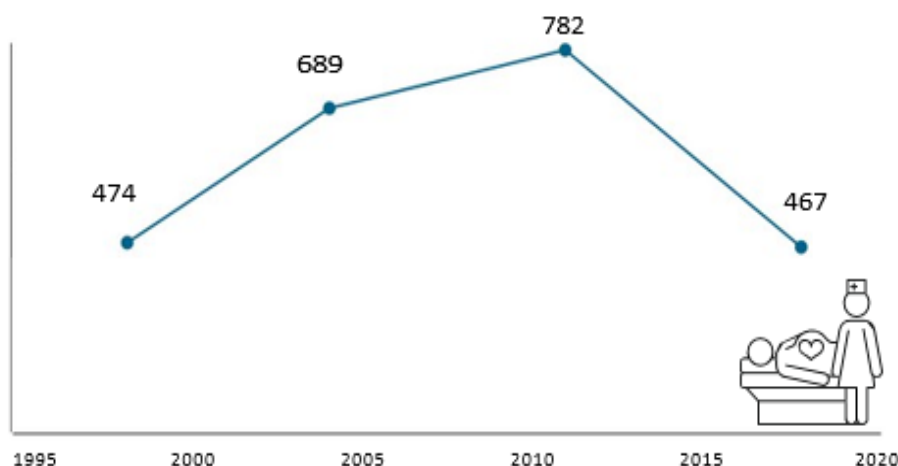
Maternal mortality

Maternal mortality refers to deaths that occur during pregnancy, at childbirth or in the 42 days following childbirth or at the end of the pregnancy. Maternal deaths do not include deaths due to accidents or acts of violence (DHS, 2018). According to the 2018 DHS, the maternal mortality ratio is estimated at 406 deaths per 100,000 live births over the period 2012-18. In other words, between 2012 and 2018, for every 250 births, one woman died during pregnancy, during childbirth, or in the 42 days following childbirth or the end of the pregnancy, not including deaths due to accidents or acts of violence.

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Comparable DHS data on the pregnancy-related mortality ratio^[8], i.e. the number of pregnancy-related deaths per 100,000 live births, facilitate analysis of the temporal evolution of pregnancy-related mortality. The DHS defines pregnancy-related death as the death of a woman during pregnancy or childbirth, occurring within two months of childbirth or at the end of the pregnancy, whatever the cause of death. A comparison of data from the last 4 DHS surveys shows that the pregnancy-related mortality ratio first increased from 474 deaths per 100,000 live births during the period 1991-1998 to 782 deaths per 100,000 live births during the period 2004-2011, before decreasing to 467 deaths per 100,000 live births during the period 2011-2018 (figure 3.2.4).

Figure 3.2.4: Pregnancy-related mortality ratio (deaths from pregnancy-related causes per 100,000 live births), by selected years



Sources: Cameroon National Institute of Statistics, Demographic and Health Survey, 1998, 2004, 2011, and 2018

Moreover, according to data from the Ministry of Public Health, between 2018 and 2022, maternal mortality fell in 8 of the country's 10 regions, with reductions of over 60 percent recorded in the South, West, and Adamawa regions (figure 3.2.5). The South region, which had the highest maternal mortality rate in 2018, recorded the biggest drop: the mortality rate fell from 299 to 93 deaths per 100,000 births between 2018 and 2022 (a 69 percent drop). The Southwest region, which had the lowest maternal mortality rate in 2018, also recorded the smallest decrease, with the rate falling from 76 to 63 deaths per


^[8] The pregnancy-related mortality ratio is calculated by dividing the age-standardized rate of pregnancy-related mortality for women aged 15-49 during the 7 years preceding the survey by the total fertility rate (TFR) for the same period (DHS, 2018).

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100,000 births between 2018 and 2022 (a 17 percent drop). In contrast, the Centre and Far North regions saw increased maternal mortality rates of 34 percent and 49 percent, respectively.

Figure 3.2.5: Maternal mortality rate (maternal deaths per 100,000 live births), by region and selected years

Region	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	▲ Variation (%) 2018-2022
South	299	124	185	112	93	-69
West	178	79	73	72	68	-62
Adamawa	167	101	166	83	65	-61
Littoral	259	355	296	189	119	-54
Northwest	112	117	81	102	63	-44
East	237	214	165	131	140	-41
North	260	91	84	84	190	-27
Southwest	76	86	119	100	63	-17
Centre	118	136	138	114	158	34
Far North	110	107	128	79	163	49



Source: Cameroon Ministry of Public Health, 2022

3.3 Children’s health

Child mortality

Overall, the risk of death before the age of five decreased between 1991 and 2018 for both girls and boys. For boys, it fell from 133 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1991 to 87 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2018. For girls, it fell from 117 to 72 deaths per 1,000 live births over the same period (figure 3.3.1). The gender gap has remained more or less the same over time.

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Box 1: Definition and key concepts related to child and infant mortality

Neonatal mortality rate: the probability of dying before reaching one month of age.

Postneonatal mortality rate: the probability of dying between the first month of life and the first birthday (calculated as the difference between infant and neonatal mortality quotients).

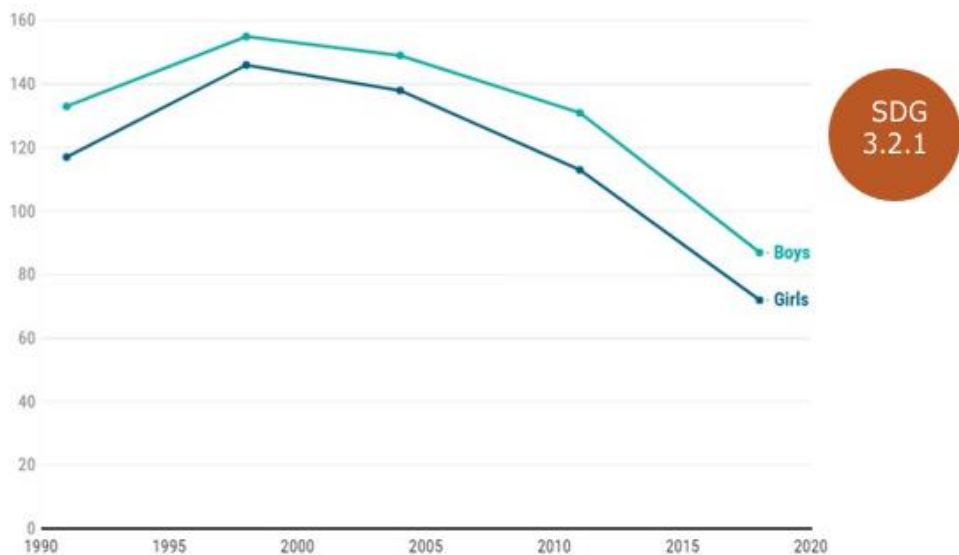
Infant mortality rate: the probability of dying between birth and the first birthday.

Child mortality rate: the probability of dying between the first and fifth birthday.

Under-five mortality rate: the probability of dying between birth and the fifth birthday.

An analysis by gender and age group reveals that the risk of death for children under five is higher for boys than for girls, regardless of age group (figures 3.3.1 and 3.3.2).

Figure 3.3.1: Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births) among children under 5 years of age for the 5 years preceding the survey, by sex and selected years



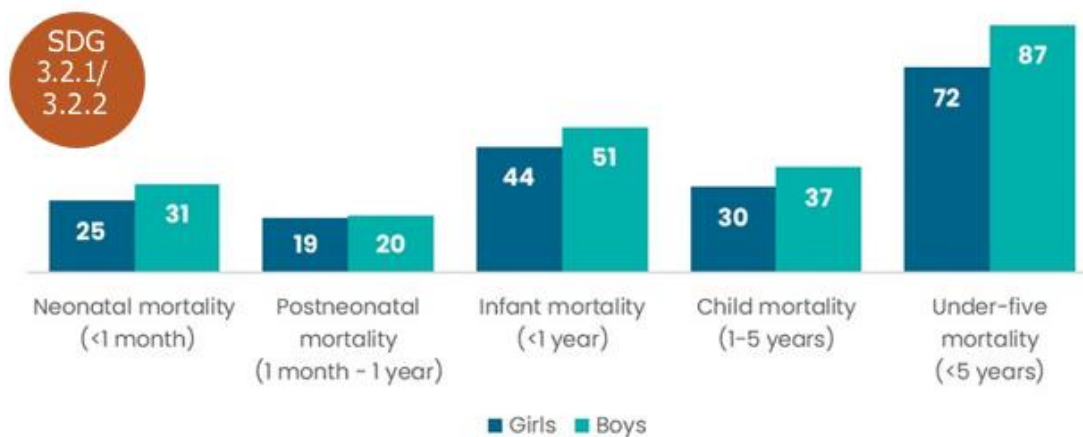
Source: Cameroon National Institute of Statistics, Demographic and Health Survey, 1991, 1998, 2004, 2011, and 2018

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For child mortality, there are 30 deaths per 1,000 live births among girls, compared with 37 among boys (figure 3.3.2). As for infant mortality, there are 44 deaths per 1,000 live births among girls, compared with 51 among boys. A similar gap can be observed in neonatal mortality.

This inequality between the genders diminishes considerably when it comes to postneonatal mortality (19 deaths per 1,000 live births for girls vs. 20 for boys), showing that the risks of mortality before one month of age and between the first and fifth birthdays are the main factors contributing to boys' disadvantage in terms of infant and child mortality.

Figure 3.3.2: Under-five mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births) for the 5 years preceding the survey, by sex and age

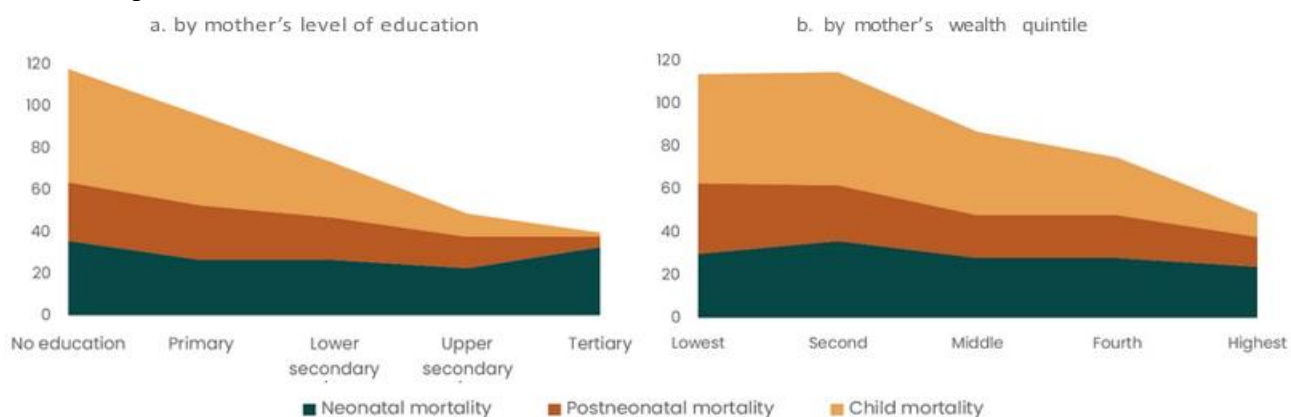


Source: Cameroon National Institute of Statistics, Demographic and Health Survey, 2018

Overall, analysis according to certain socio-demographic characteristics of the mother shows that the risk of neonatal mortality remains relatively stable, regardless of the mother's level of education or wealth quintile. Risks of post-neonatal and infant mortality decrease, however, as the mother's level of education or wealth increases, with the most rapid decrease observed for infant mortality (figure 3.3.3).

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Figure 3.3.3: Under-five mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births), by child’s age, mother’s education and wealth quintile



Sources: Cameroon National Institute of Statistics, Demographic and Health Survey, 2018

Child malnutrition

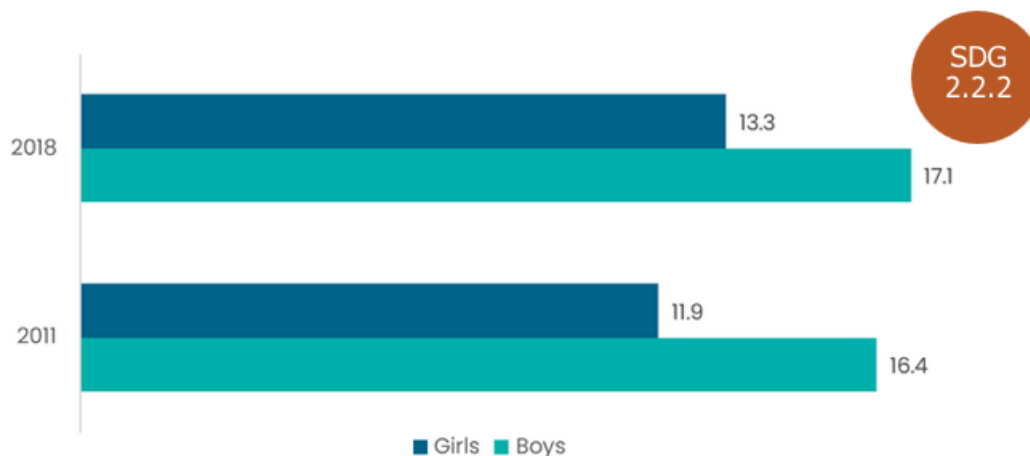
Nutritional status is measured by several indicators: wasting or acute malnutrition, which means a child is low in weight relative to his or her height; stunting, which reflects the condition of a child who is short for his or her age, and overweight, which reflects the condition of a child who is too heavy for his or her height.

DHS data show that overall, in Cameroon in 2018, 29 percent of all children under five were stunted and 14 percent were severely stunted. In addition, 4 percent of children suffered from wasting and 2 percent from severe wasting. In contrast, 11 percent of children were overweight.

In terms of gender-based inequalities, the prevalence of child malnutrition in Cameroon is higher among boys than girls. In 2011, 11.9 percent of girls and 16.4 percent of boys suffered from malnutrition (figure 3.3.4). This situation worsened in 2018, with malnutrition rates rising to 13.3 percent among girls and 17.1 percent among boys. Despite the increase for girls, boys were still more affected by malnutrition in 2018.

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Figure 3.3.4: Prevalence of malnutrition among children under the age of 5, by sex and selected years (%)

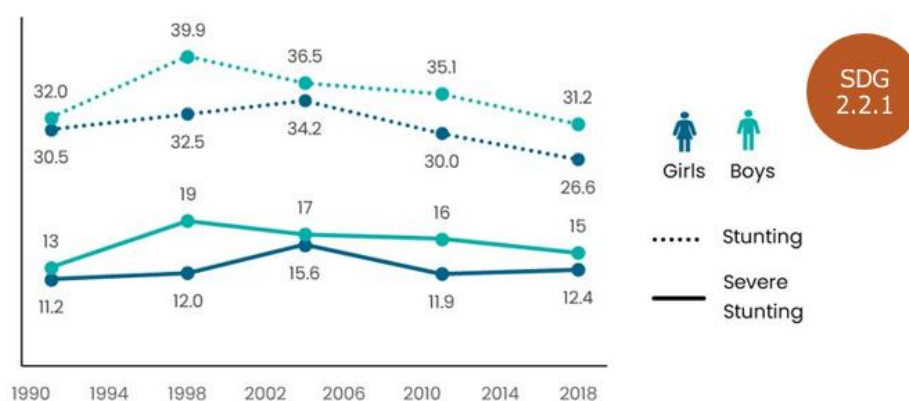


Sources: Cameroon National Institute of Statistics, Demographic and Health Survey, 2011 and 2018.

Similar inequalities emerge when we take a closer look at the components of malnutrition. The prevalence of stunting, wasting, and overweight is higher among boys than girls. In 2018, among girls under five, 26.6 percent were stunted, including 12.4 percent who were severely stunted; 9.7 percent were overweight; and 3.6 percent suffered from wasting (figures 3.3.5 and 3.3.6).

Among boys in the same age group, 31.2 percent were stunted, including 14.6 percent with severe stunting; 12.2 percent were overweight; and 5.0 percent suffered from wasting (DHS 2018).

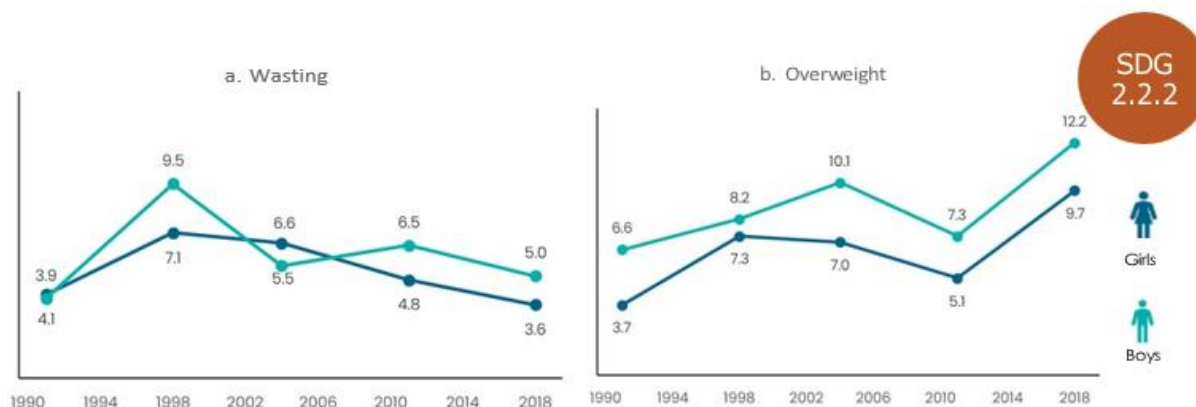
Figure 3.3.5: Prevalence of stunting and severe stunting in children under the age of 5, by sex and selected years (%)



Sources: Cameroon National Institute of Statistics, Demographic and Health Survey, 1991, 1998, 2004, 2011, 2018

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Figure 3.3.6: Prevalence of wasting and overweight in children under the age of 5, by sex and selected years (%)



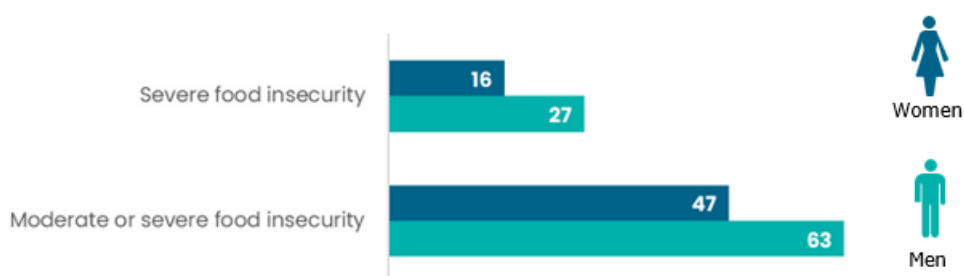
Source: Cameroon National Institute of Statistics, Demographic and Health Survey, 1991, 1998, 2004, 2011, 2018

3.4 Adult health

Food insecurity

Food insecurity is measured by two indicators according to level of severity: (i) moderate food insecurity, which groups together people who lack money or resources for a healthy diet, those who are unsure of their ability to obtain food, and those who have probably skipped meals or occasionally run out of food; and (ii) severe food insecurity, which includes people who lack food or have gone a whole day (or more) without eating. In Cameroon, food insecurity is widespread. In 2018, the prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity among adults aged 15–49 was higher among men (63 percent) than women (47 percent). Moreover, 27 percent of men and 16 percent of women face severe food insecurity (figure 3.4.1).

Figure 3.4.1: Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population aged 15-49, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES), by sex (%)



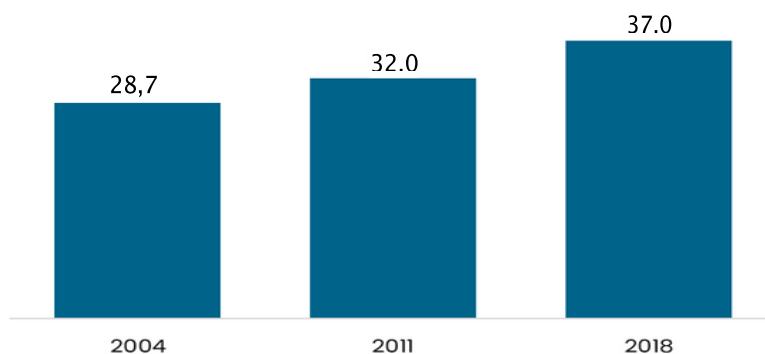
Source: Cameroon National Institute of Statistics, Demographic and Health Survey, 2018.

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Obesity, chronic illnesses, and tobacco use

The prevalence of obesity among adult women has risen significantly in recent years, from 28.7 percent in 2004 to 37.0 percent in 2018 (figure 3.4.2). Given the positive relationship between obesity and the risk of developing chronic diseases, this increased prevalence of obesity among women increases their risk of chronic diseases.

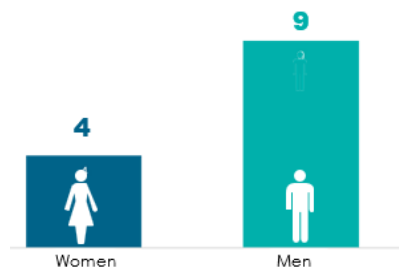
Figure 3.4.2: Proportion of women aged 15-49 who are overweight or obese, by selected years (%)



Sources: Cameroon National Institute of Statistics, Demographic and Health Survey 2004, 2011, 2018

As shown on figure 3.4.3, in 2018, an estimated 4 percent of women aged 15–49 reported suffering from a chronic disease, while the rate for men is more than double that of women (about 9 percent of men suffered from chronic diseases in 2018). In Cameroon, tobacco is mainly consumed by men aged 15 and over. In 2018, 8.4 percent of men versus just 0.3 percent of women aged 15 to 49 reported smoking tobacco. Tobacco consumption among men decreased between 2011 and 2018, from 14.6 percent to 8.4 percent. As for tobacco consumption by women, the rate remained at a similar level, at 0.2 percent in 2011 and 0.3 percent in 2018 (figure 3.4.4).

Figure 3.4.3: Distribution of the population aged 15-49 suffering from chronic diseases, by sex (%)

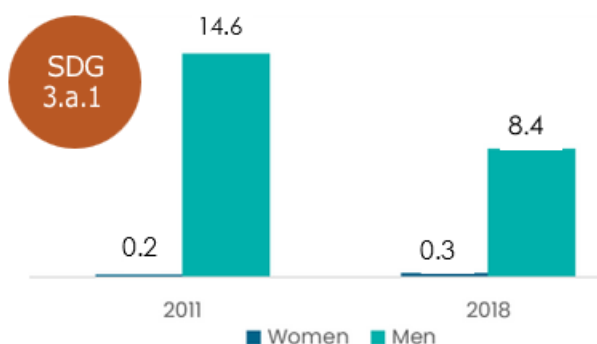


Sources: Cameroon National Institute of Statistics, Demographic and Health Survey 2018

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The high prevalence of chronic diseases, as well as risk behaviors like higher tobacco use among men compared to women, could result in an increased mortality rate for men. That higher mortality rate for men ultimately is likely to increase the number of widows and therefore negatively affect women’s well-being.

Figure 3.4.4: Adjusted prevalence rate of the population aged 15 and above who smoke tobacco, by sex (%)



Sources: Cameroon National Institute of Statistics, Demographic and Health Survey, 2011, 2018

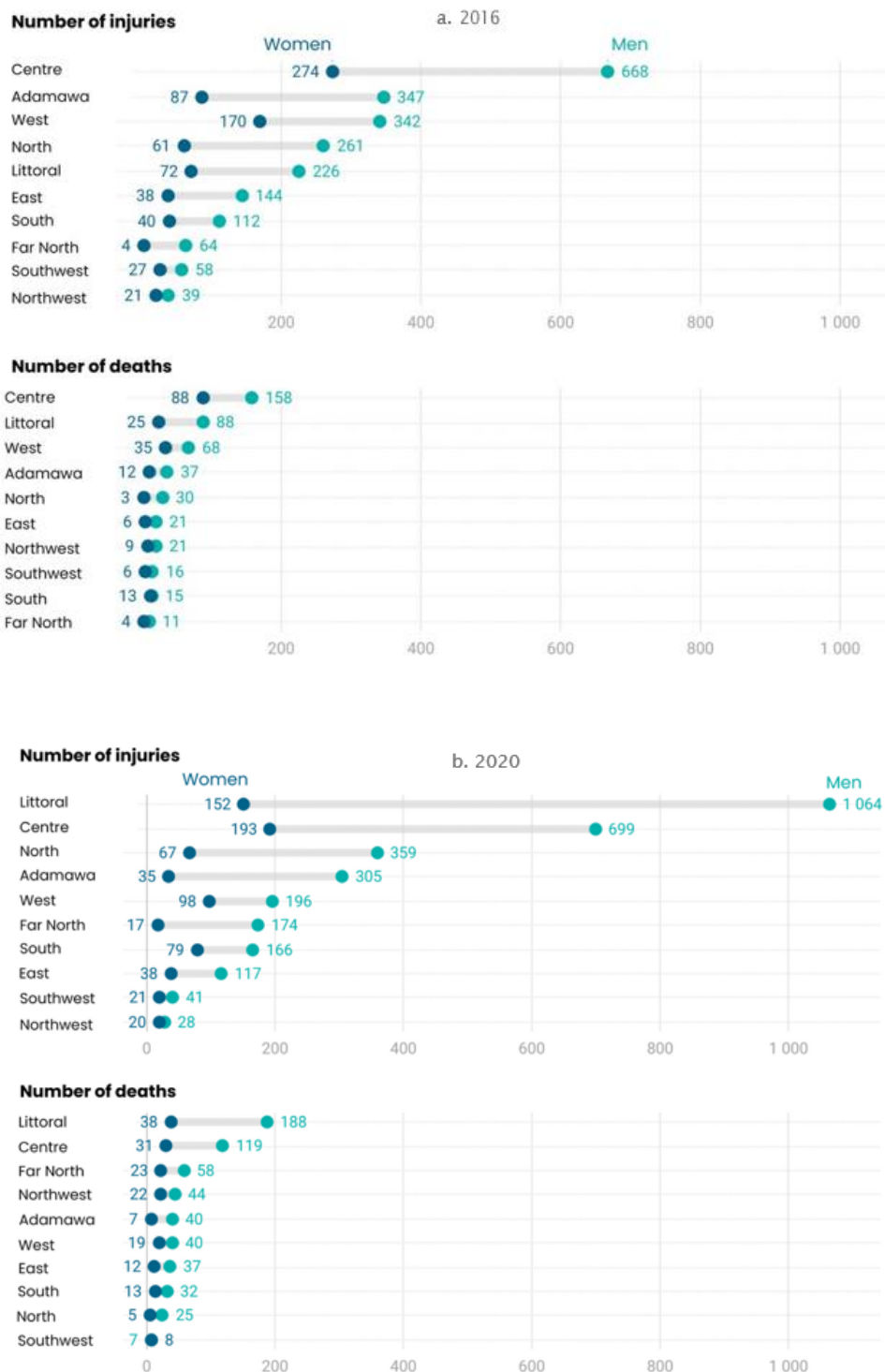
The high prevalence of chronic diseases, as well as risk behaviors like higher tobacco use among men compared to women, could result in an increased mortality rate for men. That higher mortality rate for men ultimately is likely to increase the number of widows and therefore negatively affect women’s well-being.

Road safety

Figure 3.4.5 shows an overall decrease in the number of injuries and deaths on intercity routes with the exception of the Littoral region which saw a slight increase between 2016 and 2020. However, the data for 2020 also show that men continue to bear the brunt of accidents on intercity roads, with the greatest inequalities seen in the Littoral region (152 women injured and 38 killed vs. 1,064 men injured and 188 killed) and the Centre region (193 women injured and 31 killed vs. 699 men injured and 110 killed). Notably, the Littoral region, unlike the other regions, saw a significant increase in the number of people injured and killed on urban roads between 2016 and 2020 (Figure 3.4.5).

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Figure 3.4.5: Number of victims injured or killed on interurban roads, by sex, region, and selected years



Source: Cameroon Ministry of Transportation based on national security data, 2016, 2020

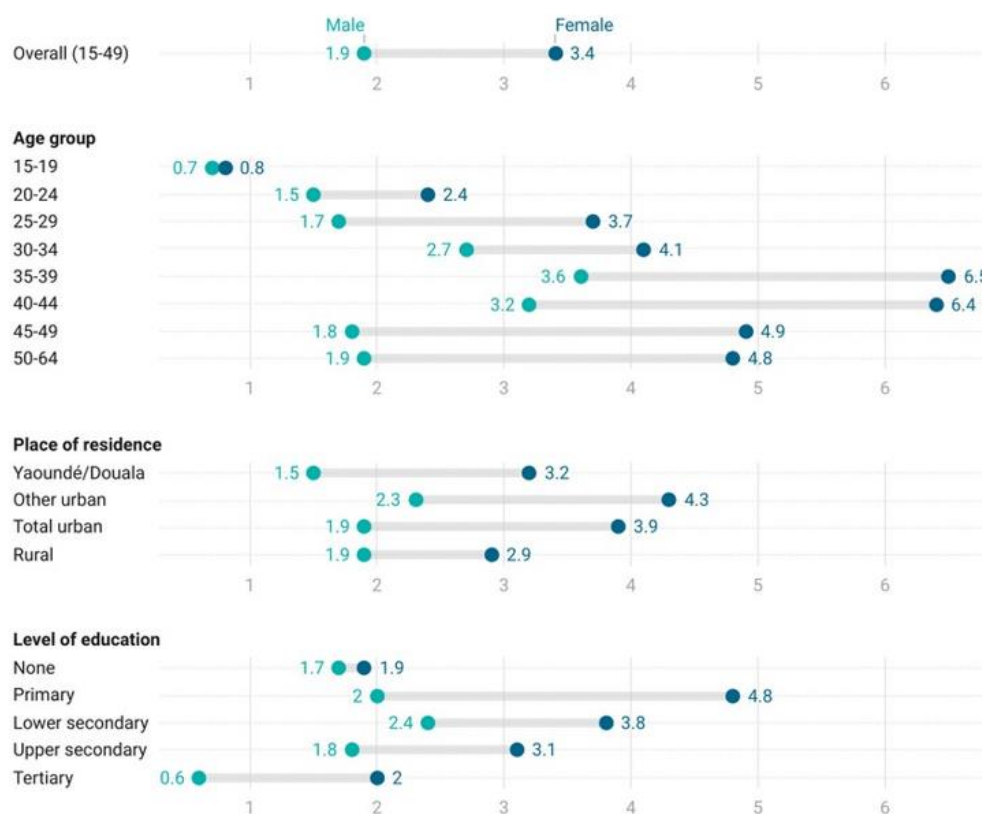
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3.5 HIV

Prevalence of HIV

Overall, HIV prevalence is much higher among women than men in Cameroon. Almost twice as many women aged 15–49 are infected with HIV (3.4 percent vs. 1.9 percent of men). An analysis of HIV prevalence by age group shows similar trends for men and women even though women remain the most affected regardless of age group (figure 3.5.1). HIV prevalence is low among girls aged 15–19 (0.8 percent), then rises gradually to reach a peak of 6.5 percent among women aged 35–39, before dropping to 4.9 percent among women aged 45–49. In the male population, the rate of HIV infection increases more slowly, from 0.7 percent among young men aged 15–19 to 3.6 percent among men aged 35–39. It then drops to 1.8 percent among men aged 45–49.

Figure 3.5.1: Prevalence of HIV, by sex, age, place of residence, and level of education (%)



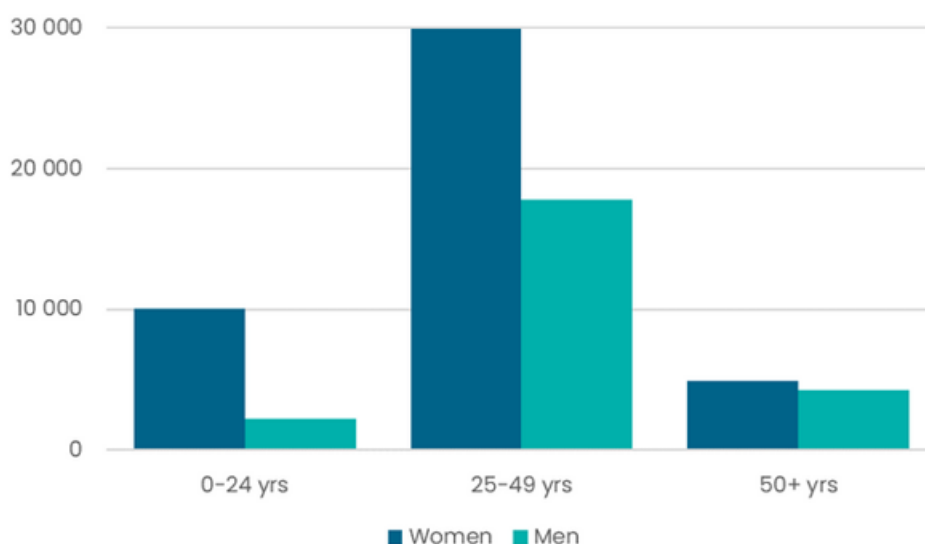
Sources: Cameroon National Institute of Statistics, Demographic and Health Survey, 2018

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HIV prevalence also varies according to place of residence and level of education (figure 3.5.1). Among women aged 15–49, it is higher in urban areas (3.9 percent) than in rural areas (2.9 percent) but remains the same among men (1.9 percent) in both rural and urban areas. In addition, the percentages of HIV-positive people are significantly higher among those with primary education (4.8 percent among women and 2.0 percent among men) or secondary education (6.9 percent among women and 4.2 percent among men).

In 2023, the number of people testing positive for HIV is higher among women than men, regardless of age group (figure 3.5.2). Among younger people (under 24), there are 10,021 cases of HIV infection among women, compared with 2,255 cases among men (a difference of 7,766 cases). The gap is more modest among adults aged 25–49, with 19,968 cases among women versus 17,767 among men (a difference of 2,201). The gender gap is narrowest in the oldest age group (over 50), with 4,898 infections among women versus 4,292 among men (a difference of 606).

Figure 3.5.2: Number of people testing positive for HIV, by sex and age



Source: Cameroon Ministry of Public Health, DHIS2 database, accessed July 2, 2023

Knowledge of HIV

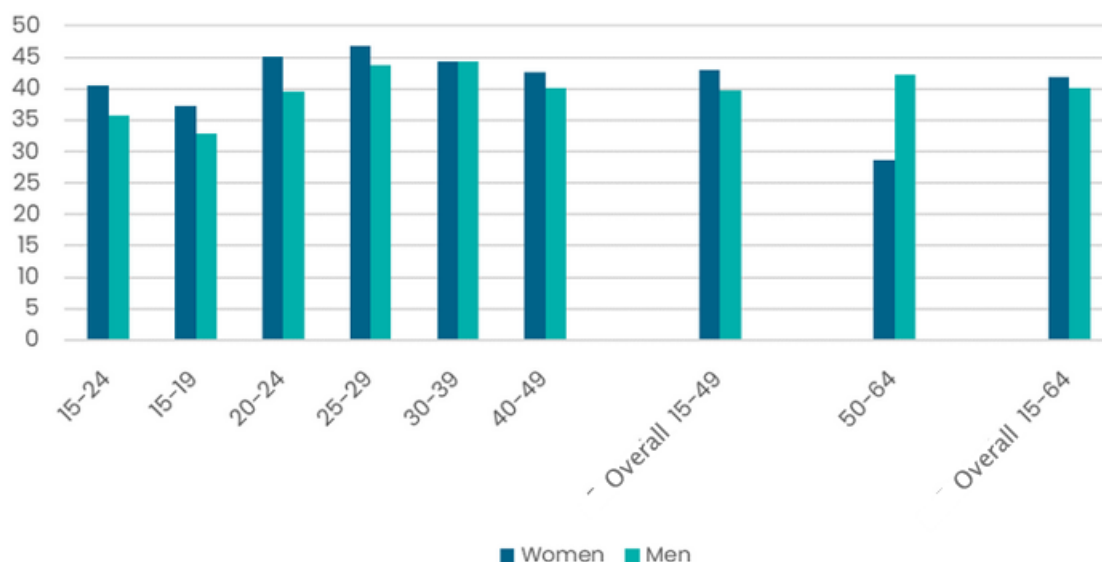
Comprehensive knowledge of HIV is defined as (1) knowing that regular condom use during every sexual encounter and having only one faithful, uninfected sexual partner reduce the risk of contracting HIV; (2)

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knowing that a seemingly healthy person can nevertheless have HIV; and (3) rejecting the two most common local misconceptions about HIV transmission or prevention.

An analysis by gender shows that women are better informed about HIV than men (figure 3.5.3) The proportion of women aged 15–64 with complete knowledge about HIV is 41.9 percent, compared with 40.1 percent of men. It should be also noted that the gender gap in HIV knowledge is higher among people aged 50–64 (28.7 percent for women vs. 42.2 percent for men), and no gap exists among adults aged 30–39 (44.4 percent for both men and women).

Figure 3.5.3: Proportion of the population with comprehensive knowledge of HIV, by sex and age (%)

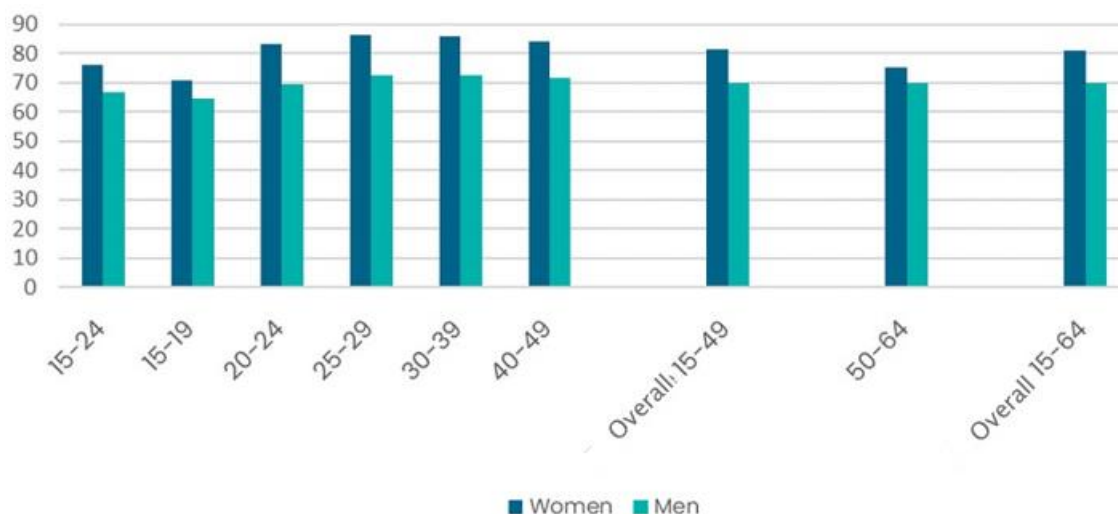


Sources: Cameroon National Institute of Statistics, Demographic and Health Survey, 2018

In addition, the proportion of women aware that HIV can be transmitted from mother to child during breastfeeding is higher than that of men (82 percent vs. 70 percent). This gap persists regardless of age group (figure 3.5.4).

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Figure 3.5.4: Proportion of the population aware that HIV can be transmitted from mother to child through breastfeeding, by sex and age (%)

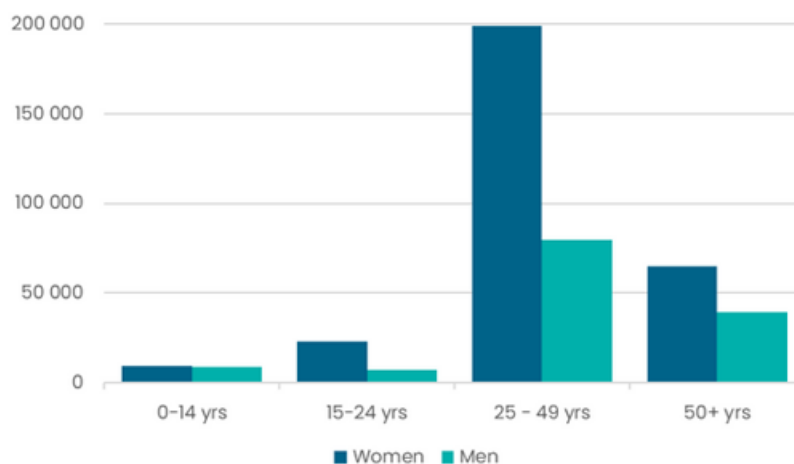


Sources: Cameroon National Institute of Statistics, Demographic and Health Survey, 2018

HIV treatment

The number of people living with HIV is defined as the total number of people affected by HIV who are cared for in a given facility during the year studied. The number of people living with HIV varies according to socio-demographic characteristics. Overall, it is higher among women than men (figure 3.5.5).

Figure 3.5.5: Number of people living with HIV (total number of people with HIV cared for in a given facility during the year studied), by sex and age



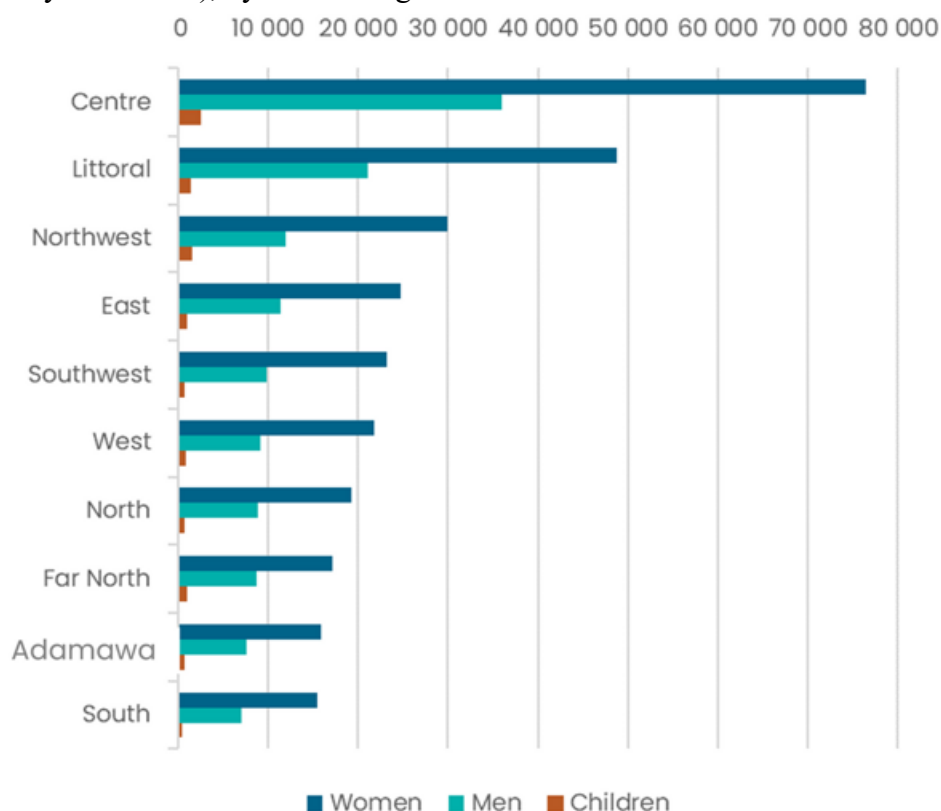
Source: Cameroon Ministry of Public Health, DHIS2 database, accessed July 2, 2023

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In 2022, the number of people living with HIV was estimated at 29,020 for women under 24, compared with 12,752 for men in the same age group. The number of people living with HIV increases drastically within the population aged 25–49. Among women, there were 198,996 people in care, compared with 79,693 among men. The gender gap rose from 16,268 in the under-24 age group to 119,303 in the 25–49 age group. For people over 50, the number of people living with HIV falls to 64,865 for women, compared with 39,445 for men.

Furthermore, regional analysis shows that, in all regions of the country, the number of people living with HIV remains higher among women than among men. The level and gender disparities in the number of people living with HIV are highest in the more urbanized regions, such as Centre and Littoral (figure 3.5.6).

Figure 3.5.6: Number of people living with HIV (total number of people with HIV cared for in a given facility during the year studied), by sex and region

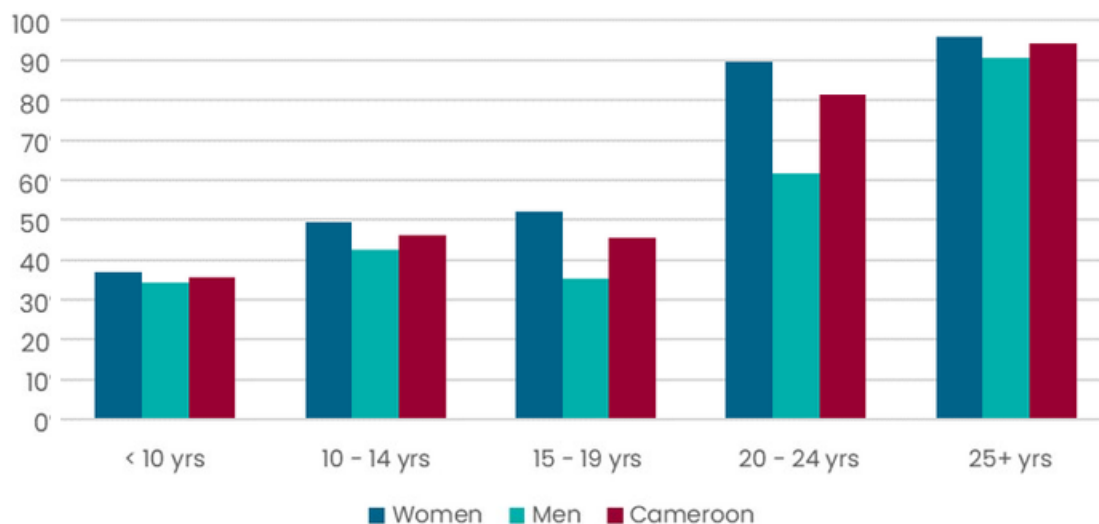


Source: Cameroon Ministry of Public Health, DHIS2 database, accessed July 2, 2023

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In terms of access to antiretroviral drugs, the data show that, as age increases, so does the rate of access to antiretroviral drugs (figure 3.5.7). For those under 10, the national average is 35.6 percent. This proportion rises to 94.2 percent for those aged 25 and older. An analysis of the data by gender and age reveals that, whatever their age, women on average have higher access to antiretroviral drugs than men. The gender gap in access to antiretroviral drugs is widest between the ages of 15 and 24. In the 15–19 age group, the rate of access to antiretroviral drugs is 52 percent for women and 35.4 percent for men, a difference of 16.6 percentage points in favor of women. Similarly, in the 20–24 age group, the access rate rises to 89.5 percent for women and 61.6 percent for men, a difference of 27.9 percentage points in favor of women.

Figure 3.5.7: Proportion of the population with access to antiretroviral drugs, by sex and age (%)



Source: Cameroon Ministry of Public Health, DHIS2 database, accessed July 2, 2023

4. EDUCATION

Box 2: Definitions of key concepts related to education

Education: the education of a person in terms of their ability to read and write in any language.

School coverage: the generic term used to analyze enrollment at different levels of education. Gross enrollment rate is used as an indicator of school coverage at the primary and secondary levels. In higher education and vocational training, however, the diversity of curricula makes it difficult to define a school-age population, so the coverage indicator used is the number of students (or pupils) per 100,000 inhabitants.

Gross enrollment rate: the ratio of the number of students enrolled in a given education cycle to the official school-age population corresponding to that cycle. The gross enrollment rate can therefore be higher than 100.

Net enrollment rate: the ratio of the number of children of official school age attending a given level of education to the total population of official school age.

Literacy rate: the percentage of the selected population who can read and write in an official language.

Gender parity index: the ratio of girls' gross enrollment rate to that for boys. If it is less than 1, the disparity is to the disadvantage of girls.

Rate of participation in learning activities: the percentage of a given population who participate in learning activities.

Gross pre-school enrollment rate: the ratio of the total number of children enrolled in preschool, regardless of age, to the preschool-age population (3–5 years).

Gross primary admission rate: the total number of new entrants to the first year of primary school, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the population of official elementary school age (6 years).

Internal efficiency coefficient: an indicator measuring the level of resources wasted because of dropouts and repeats. It is the ratio of the number of pupil-years ideally consumed to bring a certain number of pupils to the end of the primary cycle (without repeats or dropouts) to the actual number of pupil-years consumed with repeats and dropouts. A pupil-year is the measure of system consumption for a school year spent by a pupil. The internal efficiency coefficient ranges from 0 (no pupil reaches the end of the primary cycle) to 1 (all children entering school reach the end of the primary cycle) without repeating). Internal efficiency coefficient=1 is interpreted as the percentage of resources wasted, that is, they are used to finance dropouts and repeaters.

4. EDUCATION

Box 2 (cont.)

Effective transition rate from primary to secondary education: the ratio of the number of pupils newly admitted to the first grade of secondary education in a given school year to the number of pupils enrolled in the last grade of primary education in the previous school year.

Dropout rate: the percentage of students in a given course or year who leave the cycle during or at the end of the school year.

Completion rate: the proportion of pupils newly admitted to the final year of a cycle in relation to the population of theoretical age at the level concerned.

Priority Education Zone (PEZ): an area or region that has particularly low enrollment rates because of academic and social difficulties encountered by the schools. Additional resources are therefore made available to these establishments to tackle the difficulties. In Cameroon, the three northern regions (Adamawa, Far North, and North) and the East region are considered priority education zones.

4.1 Overview

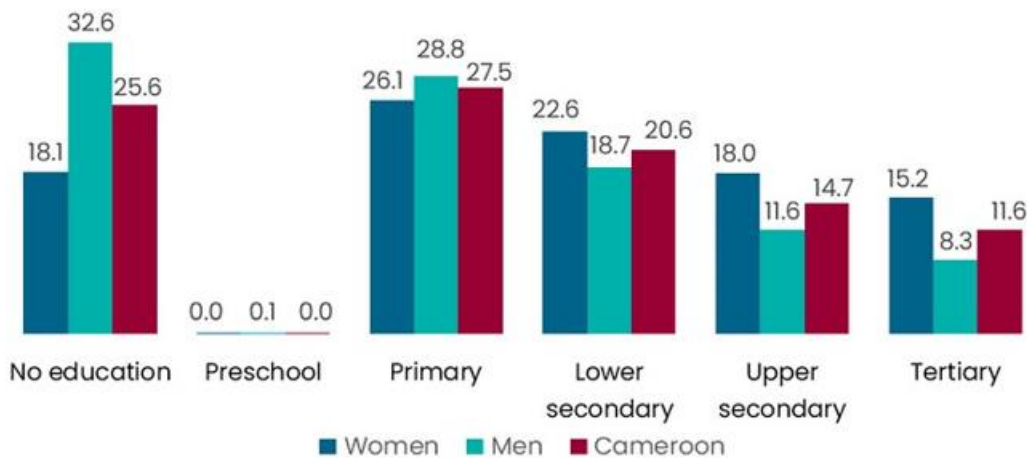
Education level

In Cameroon, about a quarter of the population aged 25 and older has no education. Figure 4.1.1 shows that this phenomenon is much more pronounced among women than among men in this age group: among adults aged 25 and older, 32.6 percent of women have no education, compared with 18.1 percent of men. In the same age group, the proportion of people with secondary or higher education is greater among men than women. Data from the Third Survey on Employment and the Informal Sector in Cameroon show that 22.6 percent of men and 18.7 percent of women have completed lower secondary education.

Similarly, figure 4.1.1 shows that 18 percent of men and 11.6 percent of women have completed upper secondary education, and 15.2 percent of men and 8.3 percent of women have completed higher education. However, the proportion (28.8 percent) of women who have completed primary education is slightly higher than that of men (26.1 percent).

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Figure 4.1.1: Distribution of population aged 25 and over by level of education, by sex (%)



Source: Cameroon National Institute of Statistics, Third Survey on Employment and the Informal Sector in Cameroon, 2021

School coverage

School coverage varies enormously depending on the level and type of education. Between the 2010/11 and 2017/18 school years, the coverage rate at the preschool level increased from 28.6 percent to 37.2 percent. School coverage is highest on the level of primary education, where it remained stable at 113 percent between 2010 and 2018.

This is likely a result of education policies that have made access to elementary school compulsory.^[9] At the secondary level, however, the school coverage rate is relatively low. Between the 2010/11 and 2017/18 school years, the school coverage rate fell from 49 percent to 45 percent for lower secondary education, and it increased from 25.3 percent to 30.6 percent at the upper secondary level. For technical and vocational education and higher education, the coverage rate is measured by the number of students per

^[9] Law no. 63/cor/5 of July 3, 1963, on the organization of elementary primary education. Article 1 of this law clearly and unequivocally stipulates that “primary education is secular and free. It is open to all without discrimination as to sex, religion or race.” Law no. 2008/001 of April 14, 2008, amending and supplementing certain provisions of Law no. 96/06 of January 18, 1996, revising the constitution of June 2, 1972, specifies in its preamble that “the State ensures the child’s right to education. Primary education is compulsory. The organization and control of education at all levels are imperative duties of the State.” Regrettably, however, even the revised 2008 constitution does not incorporate the notion of free primary education. Finally, article 7 of Law no. 98/004 of April 14, 1998, on school guidance in Cameroon stipulates that “the State guarantees equal opportunity of access to education for all, without discrimination on grounds of sex, political or religious opinion, social, cultural, linguistic or geographical origin,” and article 9 states that “primary education is compulsory.”

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100,000 inhabitants: between 2010-2011 and 2017-2018, it rose from 1,638 to 1,413 students per 100,000 inhabitants, and from 1,243 to 1,380 students per 100,000 inhabitants respectively (figure 4.1.3). Low school coverage rates at the preschool and secondary levels indicate that the country is not yet in a position to enroll its entire enrollment-age population in these two levels of education.

Figure 4.1.2: School coverage, by level of education and selected school years (%)

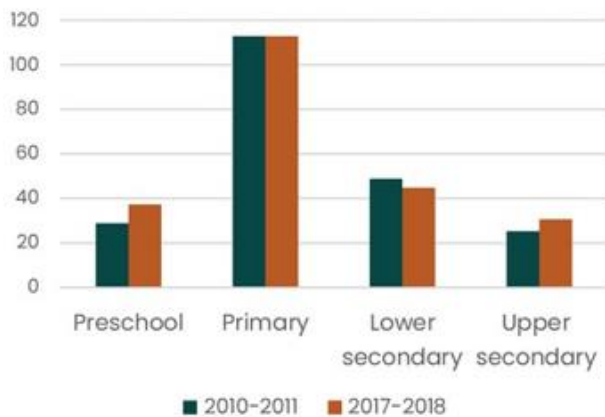
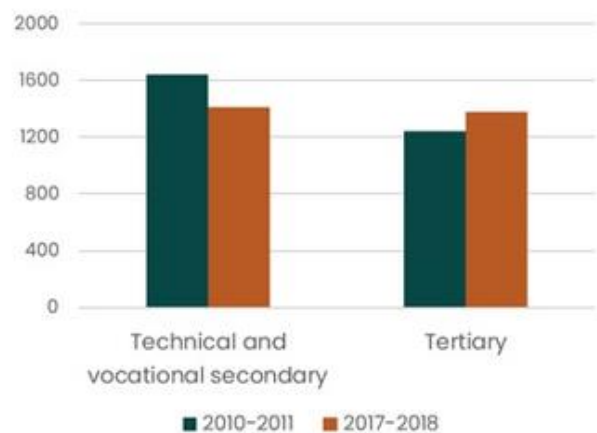


Figure 4.1.3: School coverage rate (number of students per 100,000 inhabitants), by level of education and selected school years



Source for both figures: Ministry of Secondary Education, State report on the national education system, 2019

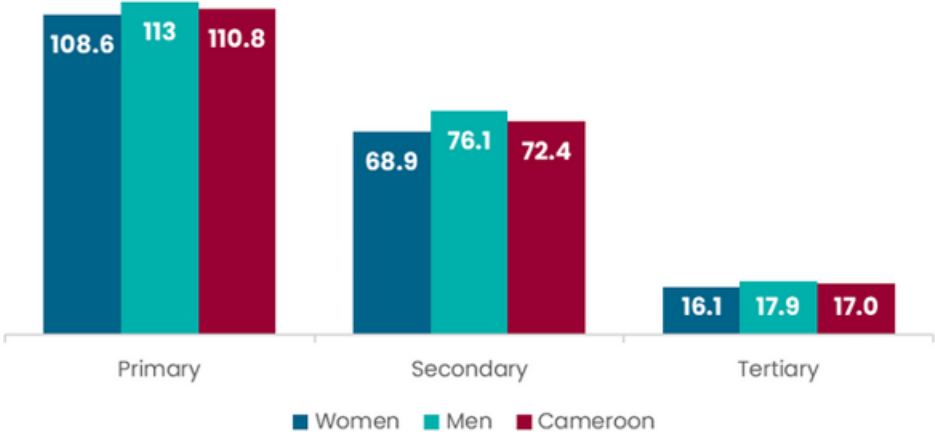
School enrollment rate

Overall, gender analysis shows that boys have a much higher enrollment rate than girls. Although the gross primary school enrollment rate (the ratio of primary students to the primary-school-age population) is well over 100 percent, indicating that the country has the capacity to enroll more children in primary school than the official number of primary-school-age children, gender disparities exist. The gross primary school enrollment rate averages 113 percent for boys and 108.6 percent for girls (figure 4.1.4).

At the secondary and tertiary levels, gross enrollment rates are below 100 percent but, just as at the primary level, are higher for boys than for girls. The gross enrollment rate in secondary education is 76.1 percent for boys versus 68.9 percent for girls, a difference of 7.2 percentage points. The lowest national gross enrollment rate is in higher education. It stands at about 17 percent, suggesting that the country enrolls less than a fifth of the population of enrollment age in higher education. Gender disparities are relatively small: the gross enrollment rate at the tertiary level is 17.9 percent for boys and 16.1 percent for girls.

4. EDUCATION

Figure 4.1.4: Gross enrollment rate, by sex and level of education (%)



Source: Cameroon National Institute of Statistics, Third Survey on Employment and the Informal Sector in Cameroon, 2021

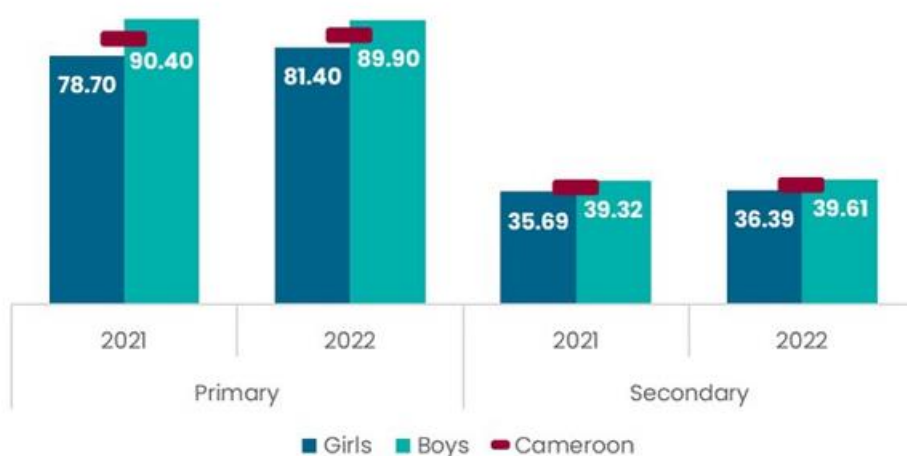
With regard to the net enrollment rate, the national average in Cameroon for primary school was 85.6 percent in 2022, indicating that just over 86 in 100 children of elementary school age are actually enrolled in primary school (figure 4.1.5). Between 2021 and 2022, the net school enrollment rate has risen among girls (from 78.7 percent to 81.4 percent) but decreased slightly among boys (from 90.4 percent to 89.9 percent).

An analysis of gender disparities shows that more boys than girls are enrolled in primary school. The gender gap in net primary school enrollment is 8.5 percentage points in favor of boys (81.4 percent for girls vs. 89.9 percent for boys in 2022).

Compared to the net primary school enrollment rate, the net secondary school enrollment rate is lower overall. In addition, Figure 4.1.5 shows that the net secondary school enrollment rate remains higher for boys than girls. Between 2021 and 2022, the gender gap in net secondary enrollment rate went down from 3.63 to 3.22 percentage points. During that period, the net secondary school enrollment rate improved only slightly for both girls (from 35.69 percent to 36.39 percent) and boys (from 36.39 percent to 39.61 percent).

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Figure 4.1.5: Net enrollment rate, by sex and level of education (%)

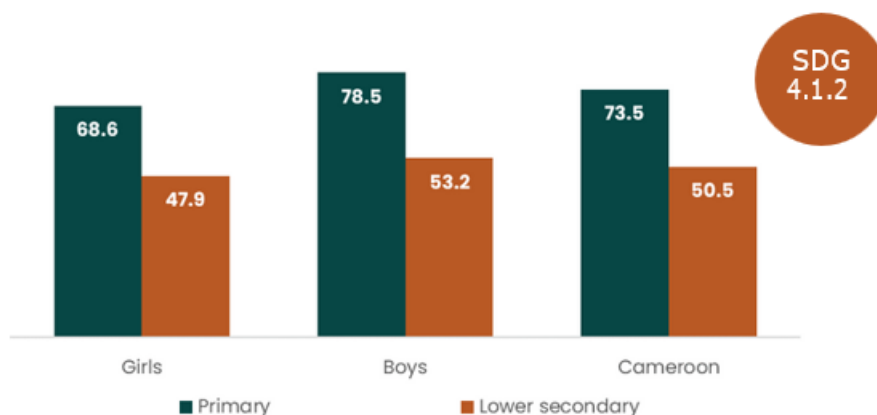


Sources: Cameroon Ministry of Basic Education and Ministry of Secondary Education, Statistical Yearbook, 2020/21 and 2021/22

School completion

At the national level, the school completion rate is higher at the primary level (73.5 percent) than at the lower secondary level (50.5 percent). Analysis by gender shows that the completion rate is higher for boys than girls, at both the primary and lower secondary levels (figure 4.1.6). In addition, the gender gap in completion rates is twice as large for primary education (about 10 percentage points) as for lower-secondary education (about 5 percentage points).

Figure 4.1.6: Completion rate, by sex and level of education (%)



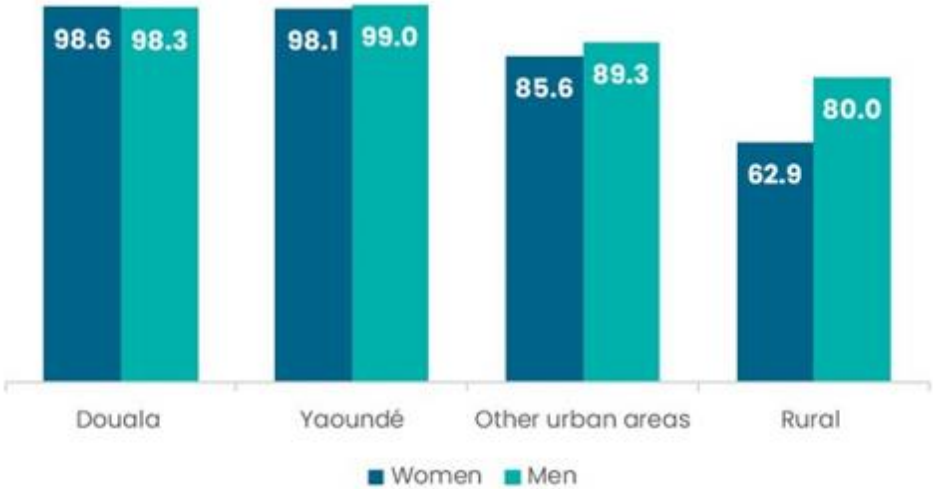
Sources: Ministry of Basic Education and Ministry of Secondary Education, Statistical Yearbook, 2020/21

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Literacy rate

Cameroon has a high literacy rate. On average, 90 percent of 15- to 24-year-olds can read and write. That national average, however, masks disparities according to gender and place of residence (figure 4.1.7). On average, urban areas have a higher literacy rate than rural areas for both men and women, and men generally have a higher literacy rate than women. In 2018, an estimated 85.6 percent of young women and 89.3 percent of young men aged 15–24 in urban areas could read and write, a gap of 3.7 percentage points in favor of men. In contrast, the gender gap in literacy rate is particularly high in rural areas. In 2018, the literacy rate among men in rural areas was 17.1 percentage points higher than that of women (62.9 percent for women and 80 percent for men). The gender gap in literacy rate constitutes less than 1 percentage point in the major urban centers of Douala (98.6 percent for women compared with 98.3 percent for men) and Yaoundé (98.1 percent for women compared with 99 percent for men).

Figure 4.1.7: Literacy rate among young people aged 15–24, by sex and place of residence (%)



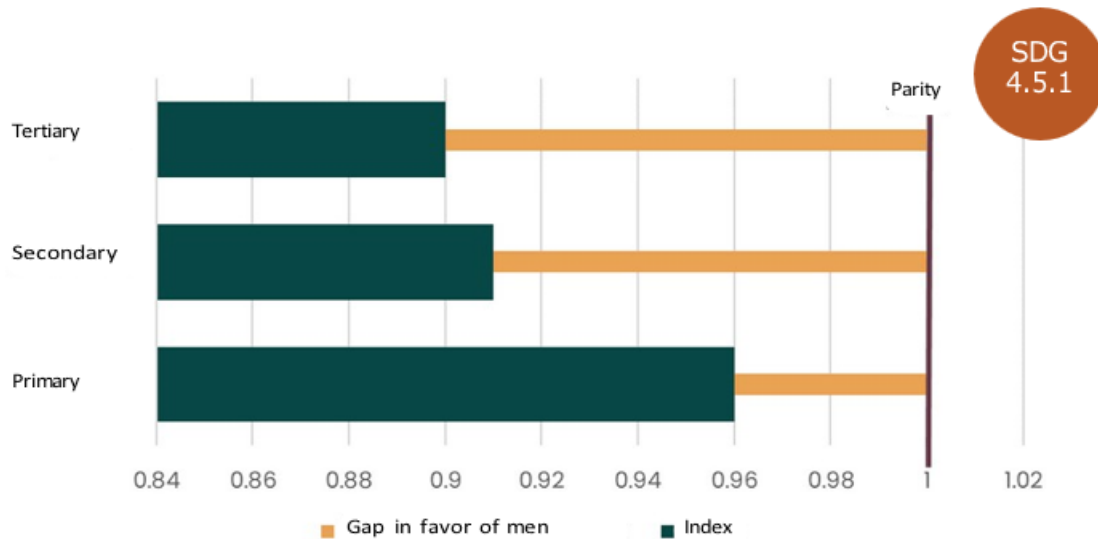
Source: Cameroon National Institute of Statistics, Third Survey on Employment and the Informal Sector in Cameroon, 2021

Gender parity index

Gender parity in school enrollment remains a major challenge in Cameroon. The gender parity index favors men at all levels of education, with about 9 girls enrolled for every 10 boys. A comparison between levels of education shows that the parity index is slightly higher at the primary level (0.96) than at the secondary level (0.91) and in higher education (0.9)—figure 4.1.8.

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Figure 4.1.8: Gender parity index, by level of education



Source: Cameroon National Institute of Statistics, Third Survey on Employment and the Informal Sector in Cameroon, 2021

4.2 Preschool learning

Participation in learning activities

National statistics show that children’s participation rate in learning activities is below 50 percent, indicating that less than half of five-year-old children participate in learning activities. ^[10] Moreover, the participation rate in learning activities is higher among boys (45.8 percent) than among girls (44.1 percent) (figure 4.2.1). Similar discrepancies are observed at the regional level, except in the Littoral and Northwest regions, which have gender gaps to the advantage of girls, and in the East region, where girls and boys have the same participation rate in learning activities (figure 4.2.2). The lowest rates are in the Far North (16.1 percent for girls vs. 18 percent for boys) and North (20.6 percent for girls vs. 24.9 percent for boys) while the highest are in the Littoral (84.2 percent for girls and 81.9 percent for boys) and Centre (71.8 percent for girls and 73 percent for boys) regions.

^[10] The participation rate in learning activities considers five-year-olds in the formal system (preschool and primary). Ministry of Basic Education, Rapport d’analyse des données du recensement scolaire 2021/2022.

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Participation rates are lower in priority education zones (i.e. PEZ, which are regions with the lowest enrollment indicators).^[11] In Cameroon’s PEZ- the Adamawa, East, Far North, and North regions ^[12] — the participation rate in learning activities drops to 22.6 percent for girls and 25.4 percent for boys (figure 4.2.1). This rate rises sharply in areas outside the PEZ, where the gender gap becomes almost zero (62.3 percent for girls and 61.9 percent for boys).

Furthermore, analysis by region shows that the gender parity index, which is the ratio between the participation rate of girls and boys in learning activities, has values well below one in the Adamawa, Far North and North regions, which indicates that these regions have disparities in favor of men (figure 4.2.2).

Figure 4.2.1: Rate of participation in learning activities, by sex and region (%)

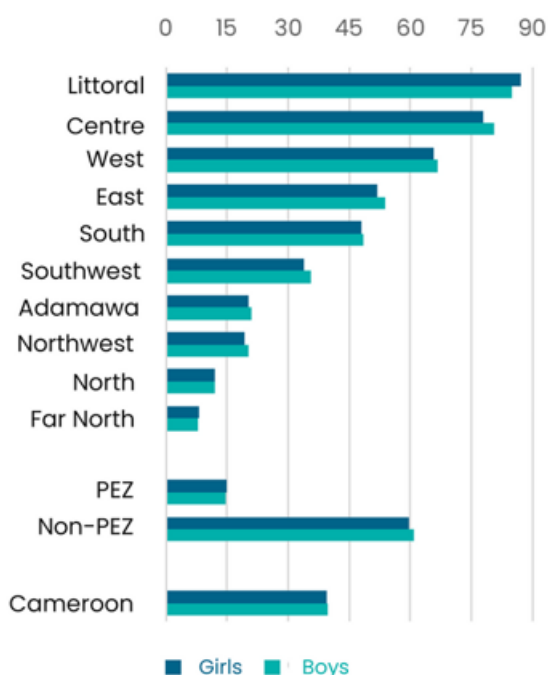
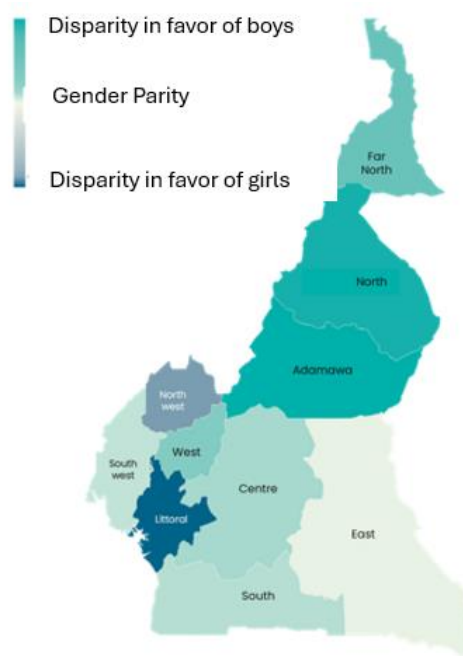


Figure 4.2.2: Gender parity index of participation in learning activities by region



Source: Cameroon Ministry of Basic Education, Statistical Yearbook, 2021/22; Third General Census of Population and Housing, 2005 (data projected for 2021). PEZ = priority education zones

[11] SOCOFEP INC, Education Sector Support Program, “Study on the educational issues in the priority education zones in Cameroon,” Report on education indicators in the priority education zones in Cameroon, November 2007, p 2.

[12] Basic Education Sector Analysis Report - Cameroon - Japan International Cooperation Agency, August 2012, p. 8.

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The highest values for women are found mainly in the Littoral region, meaning that participation in learning activities in that region is most in favor of women. Parity is achieved in the East region, whereas many girls as boys (about 60 percent) take part in learning activities.

Gross preschool enrollment rate

In Cameroon, the gross preschool enrollment rate is below 40 percent for both girls and boys. PEZ areas have the lowest rate (14.9 percent for girls and 14.7 percent for boys)— figure 4.2.3. The low rate in PEZ areas may be due to the culture or to aspects of social life that are incompatible with children’s schooling. Outside PEZ areas, the rate is higher than the national average (59.8 percent for girls and 60.8 percent for boys).

Slight disparities in the gender parity index occur between regions (figure 4.2.4). The gross pre-school enrollment rate is higher for girls in the Far North and Littoral regions, the same for girls and boys in the West and South regions, and higher for boys in the six other regions.

Figure 4.2.3: Gross pre-school enrollment rate, by sex and region (%)

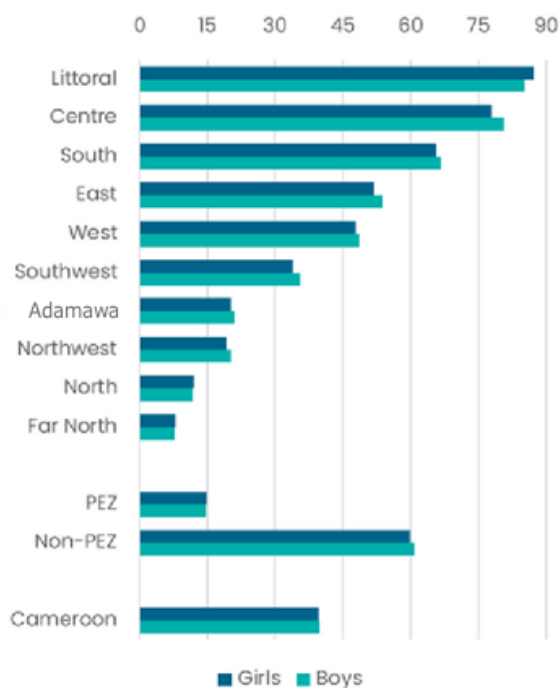
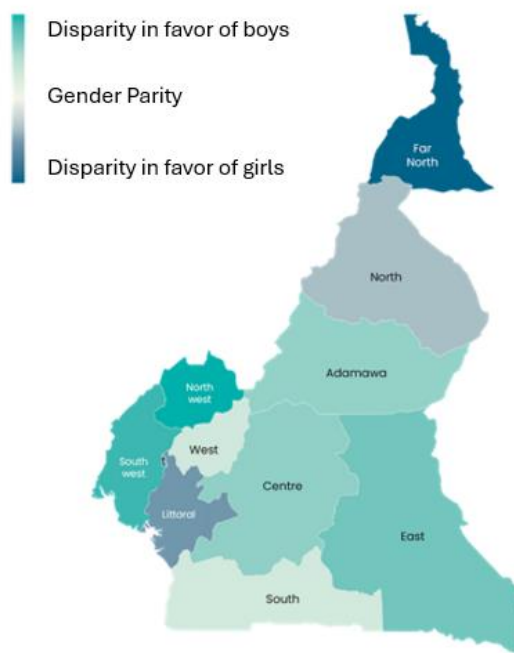


Figure 4.2.4: Gender parity index for gross pre-school enrollment rate by region



Source: Cameroon Ministry of Basic Education, Statistical Yearbook, 2021/22; Third General Census of Population and Housing, 2005 (data projected for 2021). Note: PEZ = priority education zones

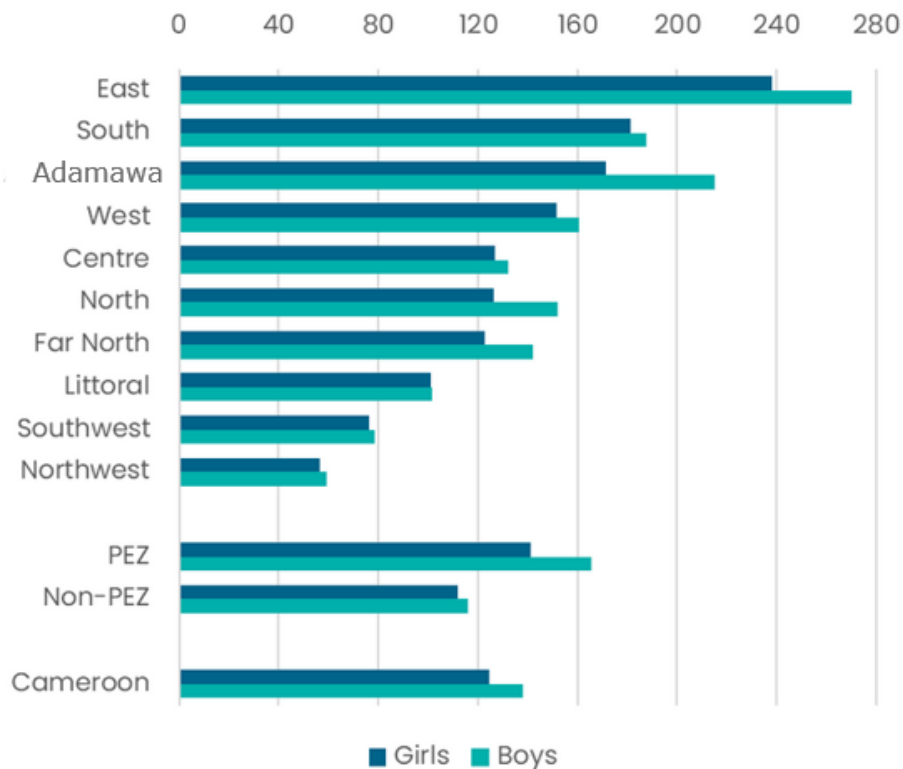
4. EDUCATION

4.3 Primary education

Gross primary education

Cameroon’s gross primary admission rate is well over 100 percent. It stands at 131.3 percent in 2021-2022 (MINEDUB, Statistical Yearbook, 2021/22; Third General Census of Population and Housing, 2005 data projected for 2021)—that is, the number of new entrants to the first year of primary school is 31.3 percent higher than the total number of children of the official age (six years) for entry. This high admission rate reflects the strong commitment of all stakeholders to promoting policies that facilitate access to primary education for all. Nevertheless, gender disparities exist: the gross primary school admission rate is higher for boys (138.0 percent) than for girls (124.6 percent) and the gender gap in favor of boys is higher in PEZ areas compared to non-PEZ areas (24.5 vs. 4.1 percentage points) - figure 4.3.1.

Figure 4.3.1: Gross primary school admission rate, by sex and region (%)



Sources: Cameroon Ministry of Basic Education, Statistical Yearbook, 2021/22; Third General Census of Population and Housing, 2005 (data projected for 2021). Note: PEZ = priority education zones

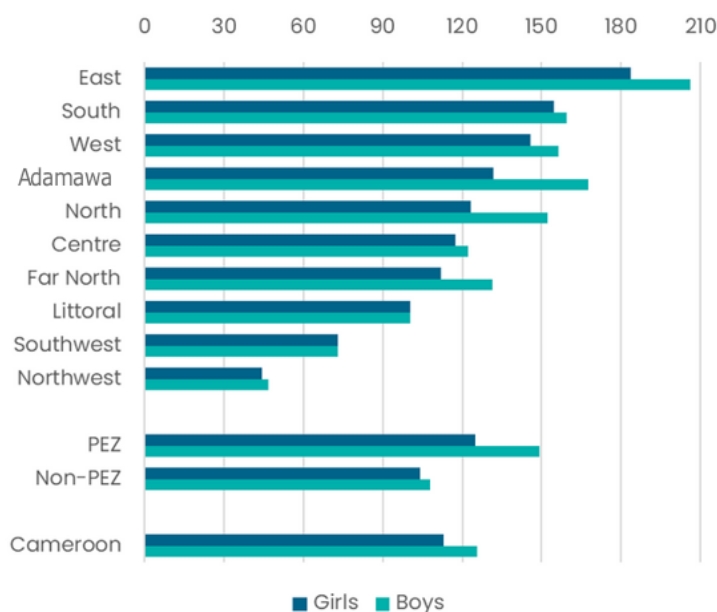
4. EDUCATION

In PEZ areas, the gross primary school admission rate is 141% for girls and 165.5% for boys, while outside PEZ areas, the rate is 115.9% for boys and 111.8% for girls. The breakdown by region shows significant disparities (figure 4.3.1). The gross primary school admission rate is lowest in the Northwest (56.5% for girls and 59.3% for boys) and Southwest (76.2% for girls and 78.4% for boys) regions (figure 4.3.1). This rate exceeds 100% in all other regions. It reaches 238.2% for girls and 270.3% for boys in the East region. These regional disparities are partly due to the crisis in the Northwest and Southwest regions, which is affecting the education system in these regions.

Gross primary school enrollment rate

Overall, Cameroon's gross primary school enrollment rate is over 100 percent, a sign that the system is capable of enrolling more pupils in primary school than the official number of children of primary school age. An analysis of the results by gender shows that, overall, this rate is higher for boys (125.5 percent) than for girls (112.9 percent), a difference of 12.6 percentage points (figure 4.3.2). Gender-based disparities intensify in PEZ areas, with a gap of 24.2 percentage points (125 percent for girls vs. 149.2 percent for boys). Outside the PEZ areas, the gap drops to 3.8 percentage points (104.0 percent for girls vs. 107.8 percent for boys).

Figure 4.3.2: Primary school gross enrollment ratio (GER), by sex and region (%)



Source: Cameroon Ministry of Basic Education, Statistical Yearbook, 2021/22; Third General Census of Population and Housing, 2005 (data projected for 2021). Note: PEZ = priority education zones

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Examination of variations by region shows that the gross primary school enrollment rate is lowest in the Southwest (73.2 percent for both girls and boys) and Northwest (44.4 percent for girls and 46.9 percent for boys) regions, because of the socio-political and security crisis in these two regions (figure 4.3.2). By contrast, the East region recorded the highest rate (183.5 percent for girls and 206.2 percent for boys).

Primary school completion rate

Cameroon’s primary school completion rate is below 100 percent and generally higher for boys (79 percent) than for girls (71.3 percent)(figure 4.3.3). This relatively low rate is a sign of problems, notably dropouts and repetition, as shown by the internal efficiency coefficient described in the next subsection. For boys, the rate is virtually the same inside the PEZ areas (79.5 percent) as outside them (78.6 percent). Girls have lower overall primary school completion rates than boys inside and outside PEZ areas, and a much wider gap in primary completion rates between PEZ and non-PEZ (61.4 percent in PEZ areas vs. 78.1 percent outside PEZ areas).

Figure 4.3.3: Primary school completion rate, by sex and region (%)

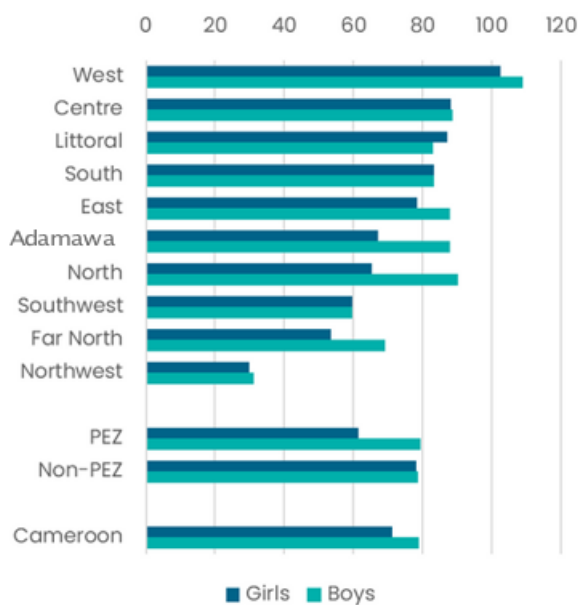
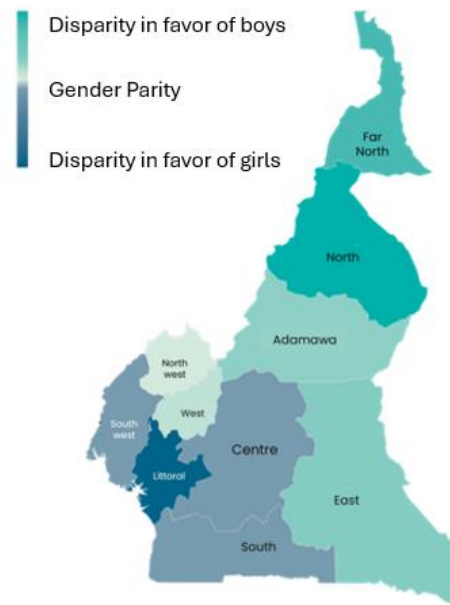


Figure 4.3.4: Gender parity index for primary school completion rate, by region



Source: Cameroon Ministry of Basic Education, Statistical Yearbook, 2021/22; Third General Census of Population and Housing, 2005 (data projected for 2021). Note: PEZ = priority education zones

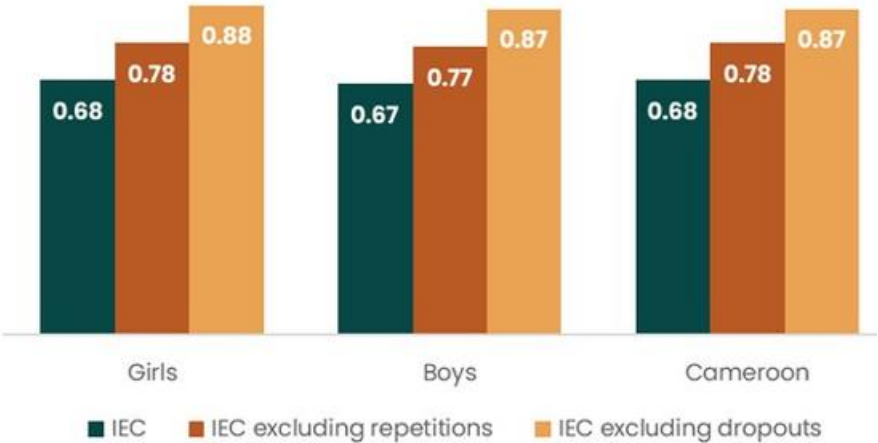
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Analysis by region shows that the West region has the highest primary school completion rates (102.5 percent for girls and 108.9 percent for boys) and that the lowest rates are in the Northwest (30.0 percent for girls and 31.3 percent for boys), Far North (53.6 percent for girls and 69.3 percent for boys), and Southwest (59.7 percent for both girls and boys) regions. Furthermore, the gender parity index for the completion rate shows that, in the Littoral region, girls are more likely than boys to complete primary school. The opposite is true in the North and Far North region (figure 4.3.4).

Internal efficiency at the primary level

The internal efficiency coefficient provides information on the extent to which resources are wasted through dropouts and repetition. In the 2021/22 school year, the internal efficiency coefficient of the primary education system was 0.68, which means that about 32 percent of the resources dedicated to primary education were wasted because of repeats and dropouts (figure 4.3.5). In fact, when repetition and dropouts are excluded, the internal efficiency coefficient improves to 0.78 (no repetition) and 0.87 (no dropouts). There is virtually no difference between girls and boys when it comes to internal efficiency at primary level.

Figure 4.3.5: Primary school internal efficiency coefficient (IEC), by sex



Source: Cameroon Ministry of Basic Education, Statistical Yearbook, 2021/22

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4.4 Secondary education

Transition from primary to secondary school

The transition rate from primary to secondary school is relatively low in Cameroon, with only slightly more than half of children who finish primary school continuing on the level of secondary school. A gender gap in this respect is minimal, with girls at a very slight advantage (figure 4.4.1).

Figure 4.4.1: Effective transition rate from primary to secondary level of general education, by sex (%)

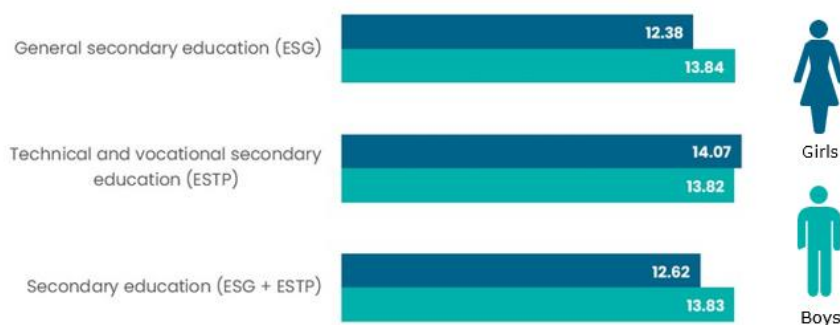


Source: Cameroon Ministry of Secondary Education, 2021/22

High school dropout rate

The secondary school dropout rate is lower for girls than for boys (figure 4.4.2). In secondary education (which includes general secondary education and technical and vocational secondary education), the overall dropout rate is estimated at 13.83 percent for boys and 12.62 percent for girls. As such, the gender gap stands at 1.84 percentage points and varies only slightly by type of education.

Figure 4.4.2: Dropout rate in secondary education, by sex and type of education (%)



Source: Cameroon Ministry of Secondary Education, 2021/22.

Note: ESG = general secondary education; ESTP = technical and vocational secondary education

4. EDUCATION

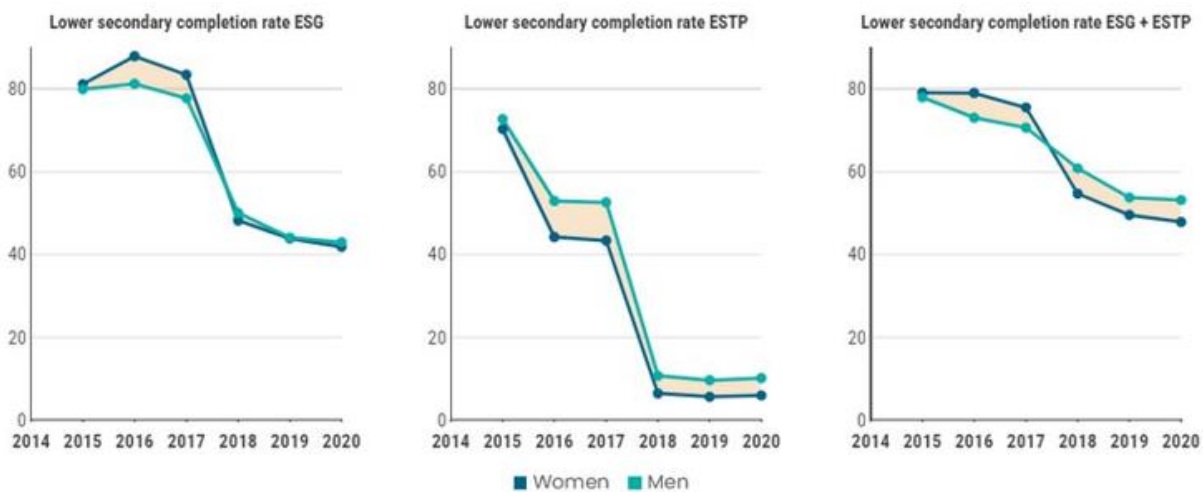
In general secondary education, the difference is 2.05 percentage points (13 percent for girls vs. 15.05 percent for boys); in technical and vocational schools, it is 1.41 percentage points (12.27 percent for girls vs. 13.68 percent for boys).

Secondary completion rate

The completion rate in secondary education fell drastically between the 2015/16 school year and the 2020/21 school year—from 80 percent to about 50 percent for boys and to about 45 percent for girls. These changes have been accompanied by an increase in gender disparities, with a secondary school completion rate gap of about 5 percent in favor of boys.

Analysis of trends by level and type of secondary education reveals that the most significant reduction in the completion rate has taken place at the lower secondary level in technical and vocational education. Between the 2015/16 and 2020/21 school years, the completion rate fell from about 70 percent for both boys and girls to just under 15 for boys and 10 percent for girls (figure 4.4.3). The drop was less steep in general lower secondary education, with the completion rates for both boys and girls falling from 80 percent in the 2015/16 school year to 40 percent in the 2020/21 school year.

Figure 4.4.3: Completion rate in 1st cycle of general education and technical and vocational secondary education, by sex (%)



Source: Cameroon Ministry of Secondary Education, Statistical Yearbook, 2020/21.

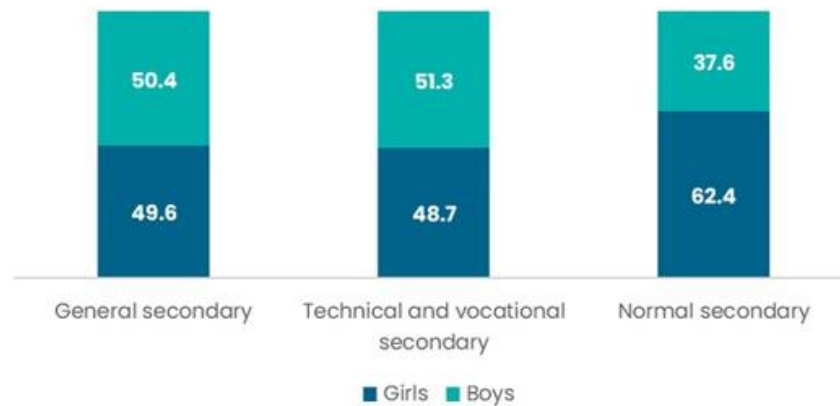
Note: ESG = general secondary education; ESTP = technical and vocational secondary education

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Composition of secondary school students

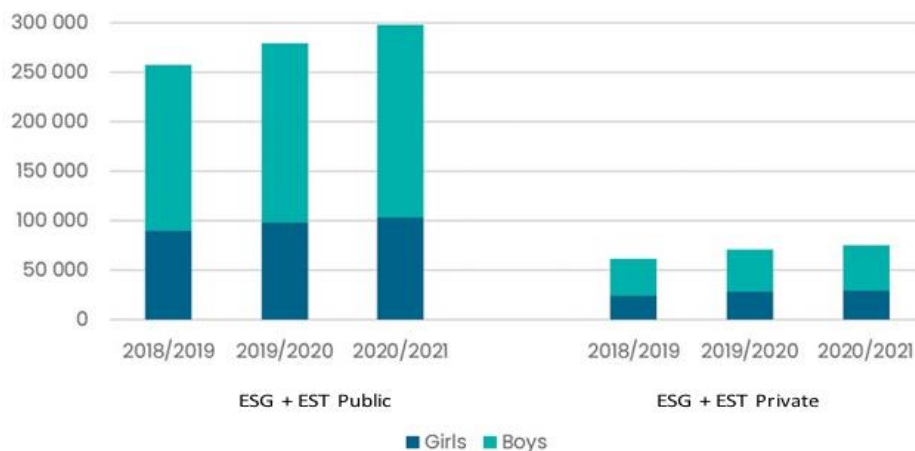
Statistics show that as many girls as boys are enrolled in general secondary education, but disparities exist in technical secondary education (figure 4.4.4.). The proportion of girls is slightly lower than that of boys in technical secondary education (51 percent boys vs. 49 percent girls).

Figure 4.4.4: Distribution of secondary school students, by sex and type of education (%)



Source: Cameroon Ministry of Secondary Education, 2021/22

Figure 4.4.5: Number of students enrolled in general secondary education and technical secondary education, by sex, by type of institution (private or public), and selected years



Source: Cameroon Ministry of Secondary Education, Statistical Yearbook, 2020/21.

Note: ESG = general secondary education; EST = technical and vocational secondary education

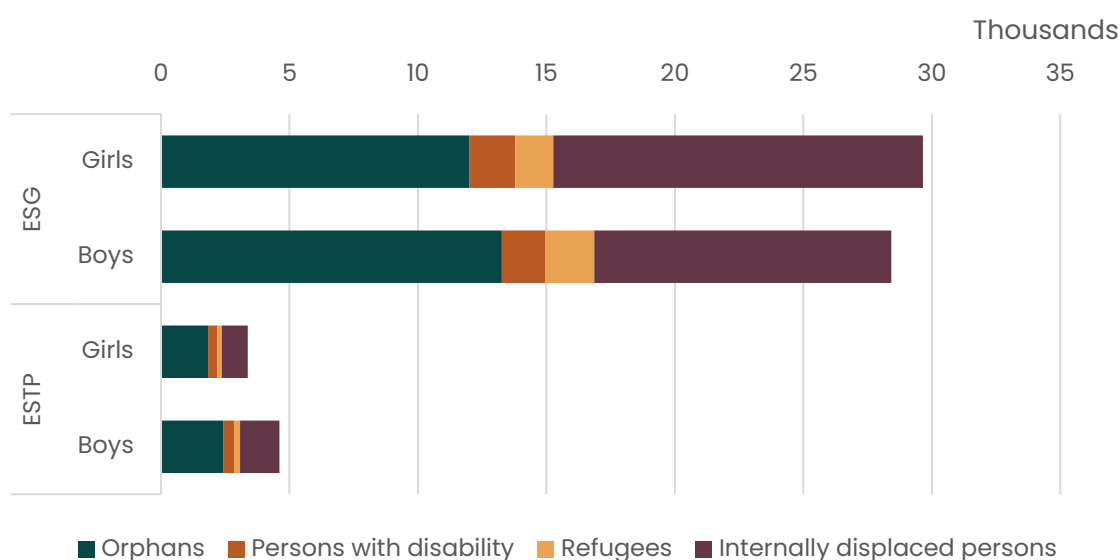
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Furthermore, trend analysis shows that the number of pupils enrolled in secondary education has increased gradually between the 2018/19 and 2020/21 school years. In the public system, the number of male secondary school pupils rose from 167,516 in 2018/19 to 194,095 in 2020/21 (figure 4.4.5). Over the same period, the number of girls also increased (from 89,630 to 103,825) but remains generally lower than that of boys. In private schools, despite increases over the same period for both boys (from 36,783 to 45,966) and girls (24,537 to 29,665), the number of girls remains lower than that of boys.

Vulnerable children in secondary education

In this report, we consider four types of vulnerable children: orphans, children with disabilities, refugee children, and internally displaced children. The data show that, at the secondary level, orphans and internally displaced pupils outnumber pupils with disabilities and those with refugee status (figure 4.4.6). This situation is probably the consequence of the various crises that have affected the country's North, Northwest, and Southwest regions. In addition, an analysis of gender disparities reveals that, in general secondary education, more girls than boys are orphans or internally displaced; in technical and vocational secondary education, the situation is reversed.

Figure 4.4.6: Number (in thousands) of vulnerable children enrolled in secondary education, by type of vulnerability, by sex and type of education



Source: Cameroon Ministry of Secondary Education, 2021/22.

Note: ESG = general secondary education; ESTP = technical and vocational secondary education

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In general secondary education, more girls are internally displaced (14,385) than are orphans (11,990) whereas more boys are orphans (13,269) than are internally displaced (11,550). In technical and vocational secondary education, the number of orphans is higher than that of internally displaced children for both girls (1,837 orphans vs. 1,005 internally displaced) and boys (2,419 orphans vs. 1,529 internally displaced).

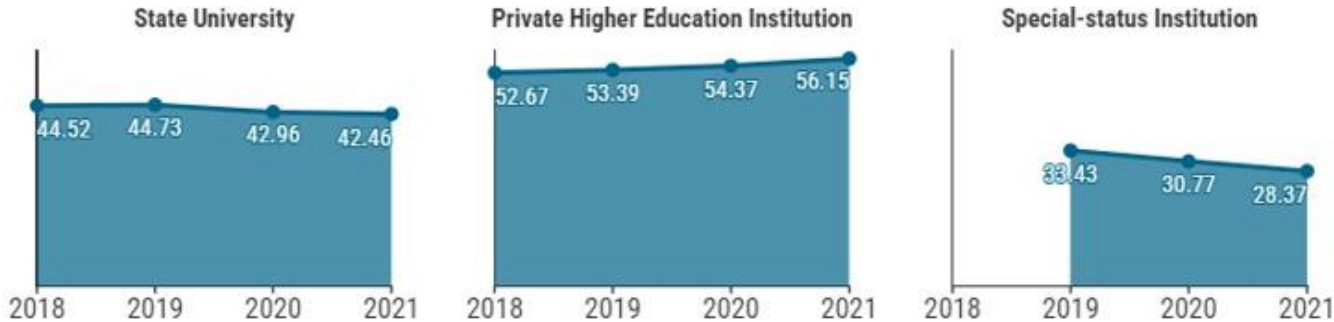
4.5 Higher education

Female students by type of higher education institution

In higher education, trends in women’s participation rates vary according to the type of academic institution. In state universities and special-status institutions, the proportion of women in the student population has fallen considerably in recent years.

Between 2018 and 2021, the percentage of women in the student population enrolled at state universities fell from 44.52 percent to 42.46 percent (figure 4.5.1). Similarly, the proportion of female students in special-status institutions fell from 33.43 percent in 2019 to 28.37 percent in 2021. In contrast, the proportion of female students in private higher education institutions rose from 52.67 percent in 2018 to 56.15 percent in 2021. These trends indicate that, at the higher education level, women are enrolling more in private institutions than in other types of higher education institution.

Figure 4.5.1: Proportion of female students by type of higher education institution



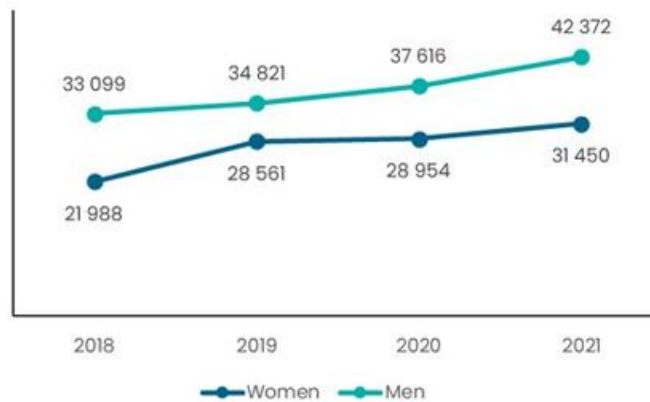
Source: Cameroon Ministry of Higher Education, Statistical Yearbook, 2021

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Number of students in technical and vocational training

An analysis of the gender distribution of students enrolled in technical and vocational training reveals that, on average, more men than women are enrolled. Between 2018 and 2021, both male and female enrollment in technical and vocational training increased. For men, the number of students enrolled in technical education rose from 33,099 in 2018 to 42,372 in 2021 (figure 4.5.2). Women’s enrollment has also risen, although less than men’s, from 21,988 to 31,450 over the same period.

Figure 4.5.2: Number of students enrolled in technical and vocational training, by sex and selected years

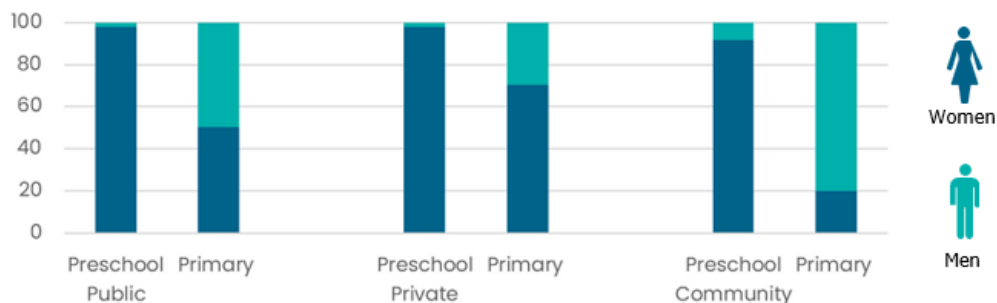


Source: Cameroon Ministry of Higher Education, 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021

4.6 Proportion of women in teaching

At the preschool level, very few men teach, regardless of school type. As a result, the proportions of female preschool teachers are 98.0 percent, 97.8 percent, and 91.6 percent in public, private, and community schools, respectively (figure 4.6.1).

Figure 4.6.1: Distribution of teaching staff, by sex, level of education, and type of institution (private, public or community) (%)

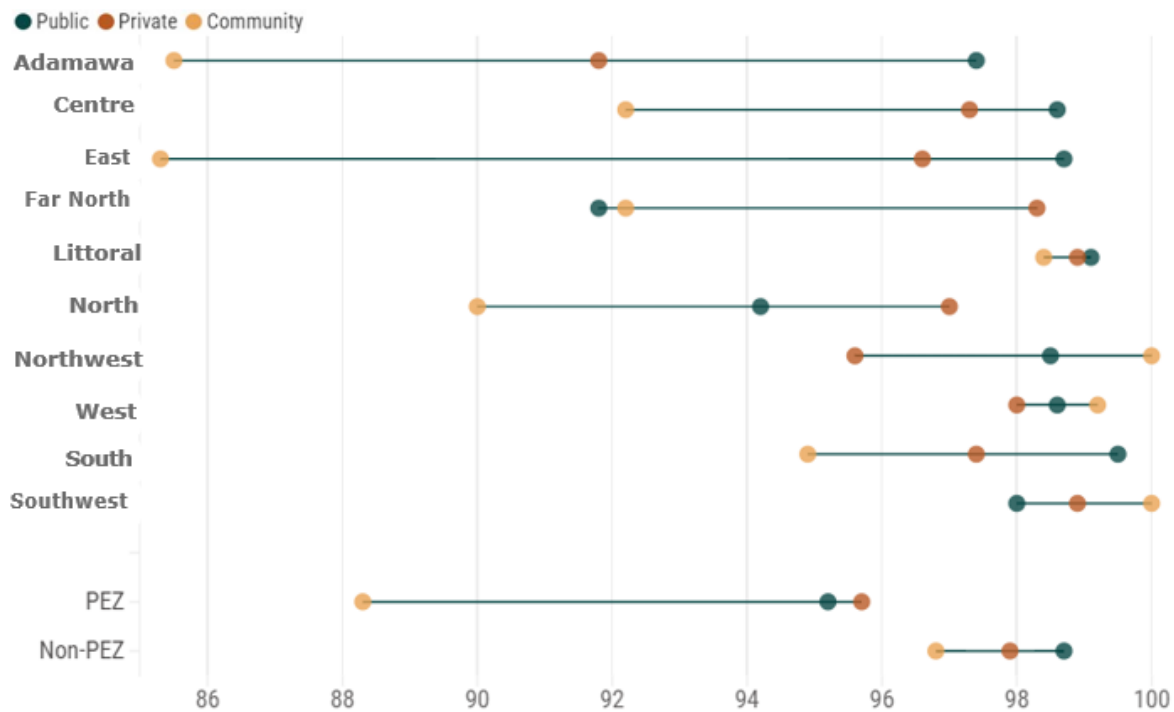


Source: Cameroon Ministry of Basic Education, Statistical Yearbook, 2021/22.

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A similar picture emerges across regions where over 85 percent of preschool teachers are women in all regions (figure 4.6.2).

Figure 4.6.2: Proportion of female pre-school teachers in each type of institution (public, private or community), by region (%)



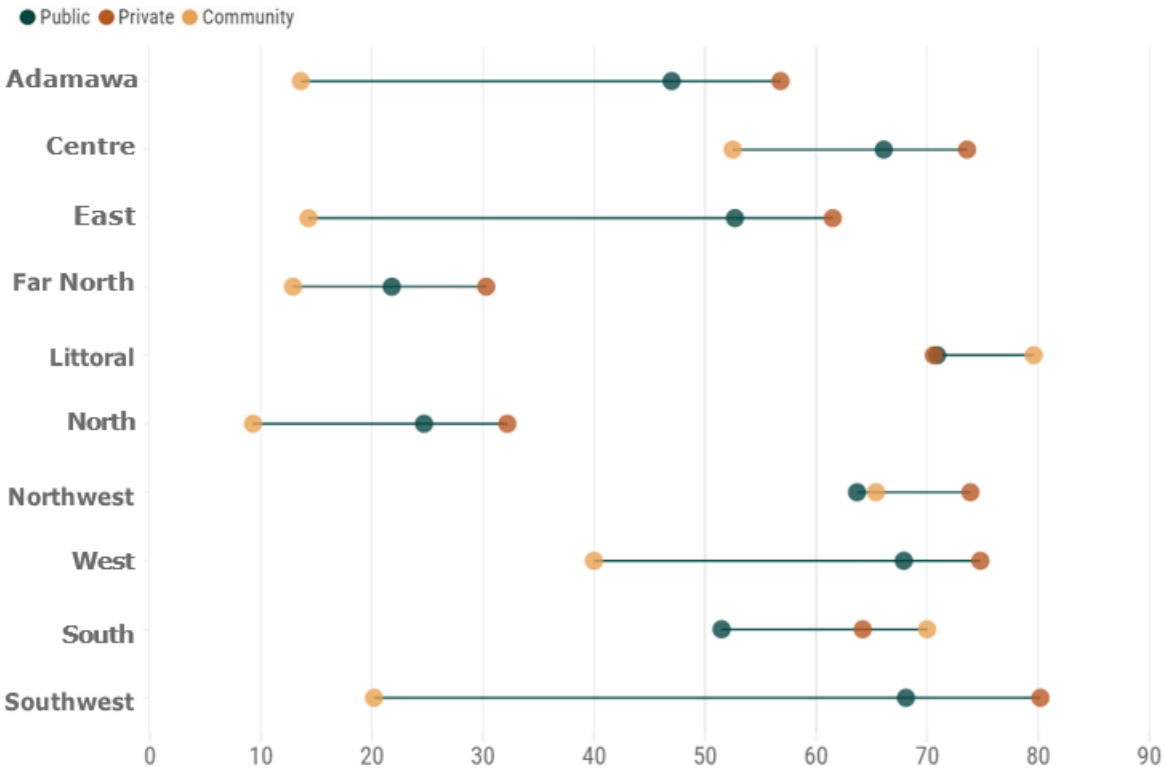
Source: Cameroon Ministry of Basic Education, Statistical Yearbook, 2021/22. Note: the scale starts at 85 because all regions have at least 85 percent female teachers in preschool

The percentage of preschool teachers who are women rises to 100% in community schools in the North-West and South-West regions. In addition, the proportion of female teachers is lower in PEZ schools than in schools outside these zones (figure 4.6.2). With regard to primary education, national statistics show that compared to pre-school level, the proportion of female teachers at the primary one is drastically lower than that of men (figure 4.6.3). Indeed, while over 90 percent of teachers at pre-school level are female, the proportion of women in teaching positions at primary level stands at only 50.3 percent, 70.3 percent and 20.2 percent, respectively in public, private and community schools.

This trend remains stable across geographical regions, with women being steadily underrepresented in teaching positions, as compared to men.

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Figure 4.6.3: Proportion of female primary school teachers for each type of institution (public, private or community), by region (%)

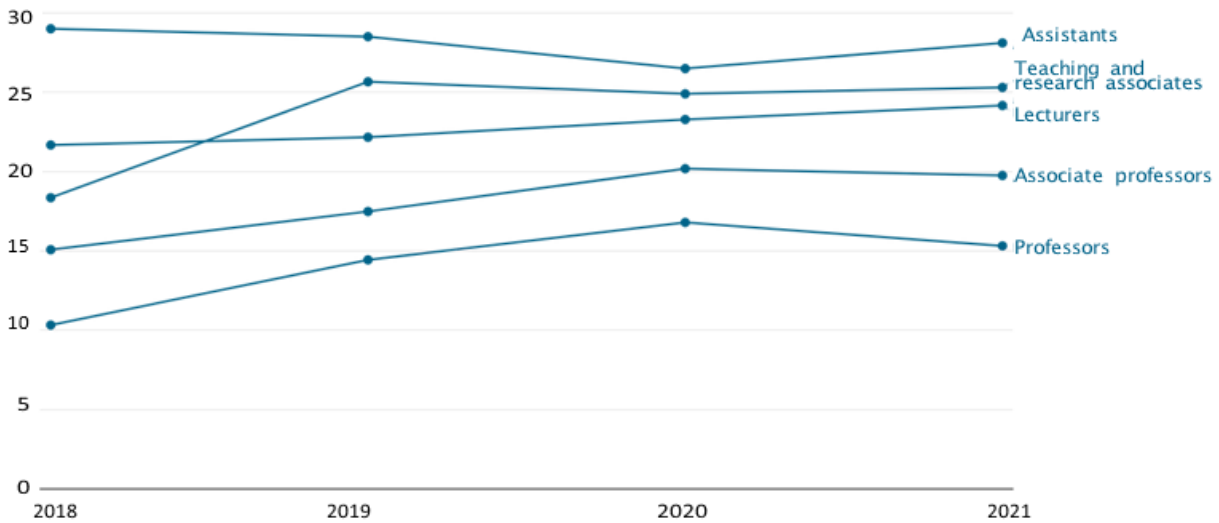


Source: Cameroon Ministry of Basic Education, Statistical Yearbook, 2021/22

In higher education, the proportion of female teaching staff has increased slightly (Figure 4.6.4). The number of women increased among teaching assistants (28.1 percent in 2018) and teaching and research associates (25.3 percent in 2018). However, the proportion of female teaching staff at senior level remains below 50 percent overall, regardless of grade. Between 2018 and 2021, the proportion of female teaching staff at higher level rose from 10.3 percent to 15.3 percent for professors; from 15.1 percent to 19.8 percent for senior lecturers; from 21.7 percent to 24.2 percent for lecturers; from 29 percent to 28.1 percent for assistants; and from 18.4 percent to 25.3 percent for teaching and research assistants.

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Figure 4.6.4: Proportion of female higher education teachers in each type of position, by selected years



Source: Cameroon Ministry of Higher Education, Statistical Yearbook, 2021

4.7 Vocational education

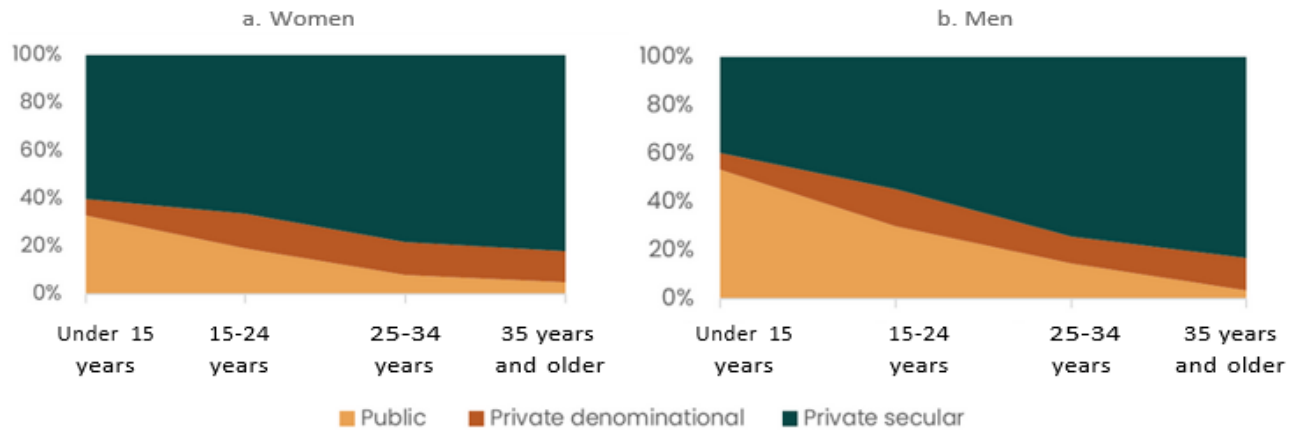
Number of learners in vocational training centers

The number of learners in vocational training centers varies according to age, gender, and type of training center. In public vocational training centers, there are more men than women under the age of 34 (7,360 men vs. 4,410 women)—figure 4.7.1. Among students over the age of 34, women (65) outnumber men (38). In private denominational vocational training centers, the number of women (2,384) is lower than that of men (2,791) for those under the age of 24. The situation reverses for older students, with 1,297 women versus 1,197 men ages 25 and older enrolled in private denominational vocational training centers.

In private secular vocational training centers, women under the age of 24 (11,170) and those ages 35 and over (1,051) outnumber their male counterparts (10,324 and 940, respectively). Between the ages of 25 and 34, the majority of those enrolled in private secular vocational training centers are men (6,328 women vs. 6,979 men) - figure 4.7.1.

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Figure 4.7.1: Distribution of learners enrolled in vocational training centers by type of institution (public, private denominational or private secular), by sex and age (%)

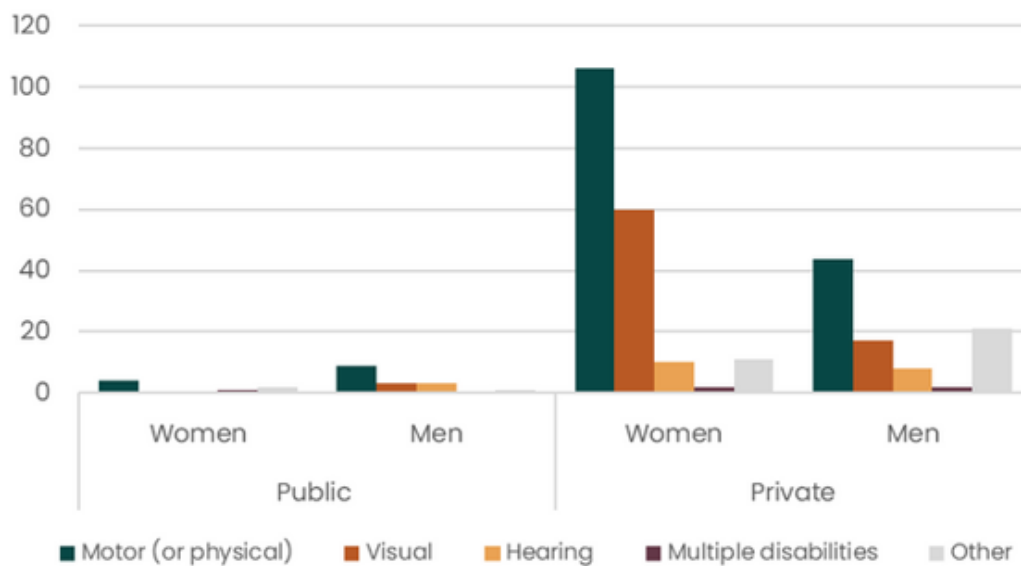


Sources: Cameroon Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training and National Observatory of Employment and Vocational Training, data collection on vocational training, 2020–21

People with disabilities

Overall, very few men or women with disabilities are enrolled as learners in private vocational training centers—only 16 men and 7 women (figure 4.7.2).

Figure 4.7.2: Number of people living with a disability who take part in learning activities in a vocational training center, for each type of disability, by sex and type of institution (public or private) (%)



Sources: Cameroon Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training and National Observatory of Employment and Vocational Training, data collection on vocational training, 2020–21

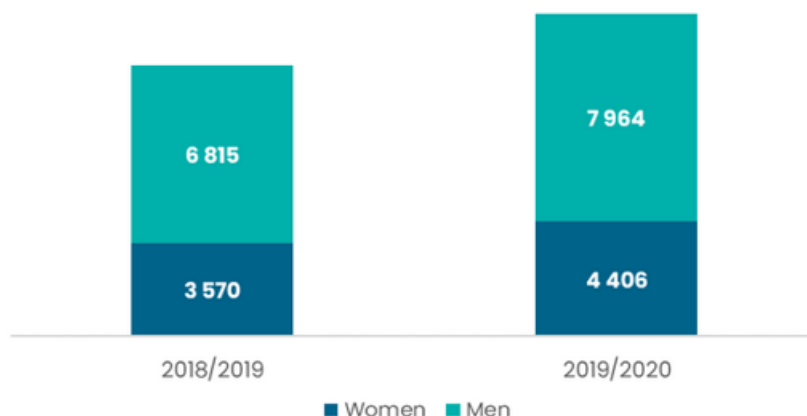
4. EDUCATION

Private centers have a higher proportion of learners with one or more disabilities. These include a higher proportion of women. For example, data show that, in 2021, 106 women versus 44 men with motor disabilities were enrolled in private vocational training centers (figure 4.7.2).

Number of trainers

As in primary, secondary, and higher education, men make up of most of the teaching and training workforce in vocational training centers. Although the number of trainers increased overall from the 2018/19 to the 2019/20 school year, the gender gap in terms of the number of trainers did not narrow. Whereas the number of female trainers rose from 3,570 in the 2018/19 school year to 4,406 in 2019/20, the number of male trainers rose from 6,815 to 7,964 over the same period (figure 4.7.3). The greater increase among men translates into an increase in gender inequalities over time: the difference between men and women in terms of trainer headcount rose from 3,245 in 2018/19 to 3,558 in 2019/20.

Figure 4.7.3: Number of trainers working in vocational training centers, by sex and selected years



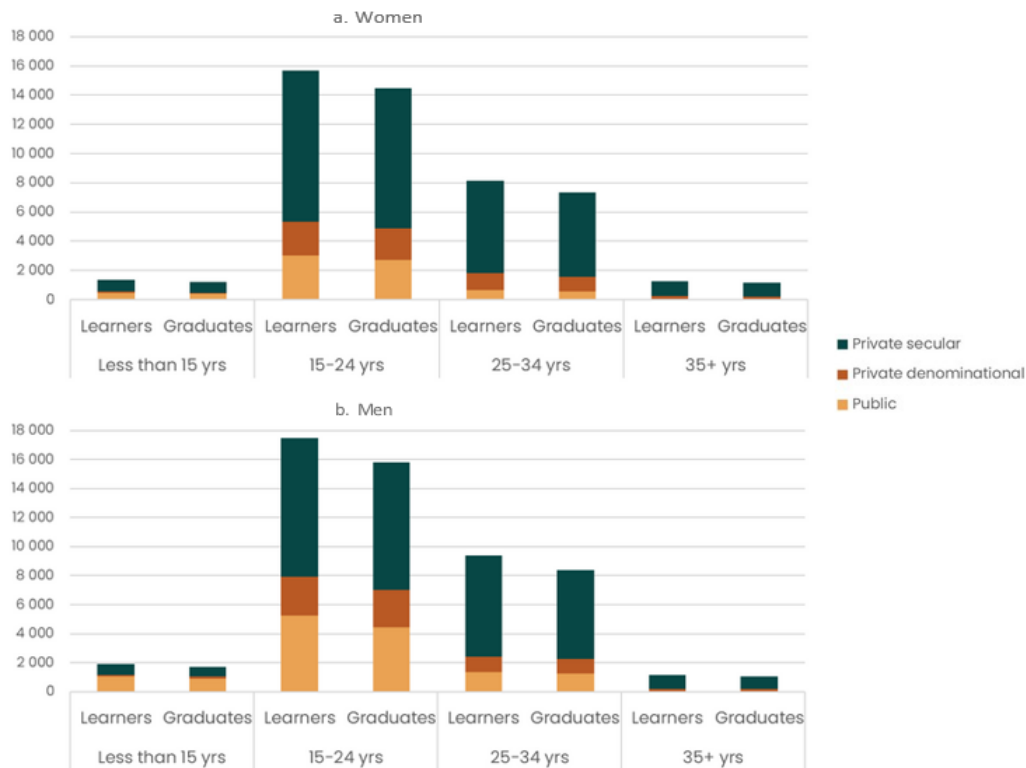
Sources: Cameroon Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training and National Observatory of Employment and Vocational Training, data collection on vocational training, 2020–21

Number of graduates and scholarship holders

On the whole, the success rate of vocational training centers is quite high for both men and women, regardless of the type of training center (public or private) or age group (figure 4.7.4). A comparison of the number of graduates and the number of learners shows that over 80 percent of learners complete their training.

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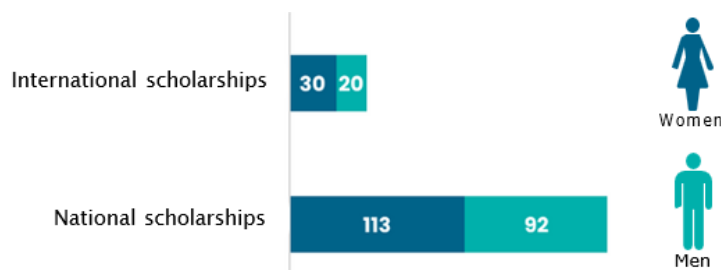
Figure 4.7.4: Number of learners and graduates (“outgoing”) from vocational training centers by type of institution (public, private denominational or private secular), sex and age



Sources: Cameroon Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training and National Observatory of Employment and Vocational Training, data collection on vocational training, 2020–21.

In addition, more women obtain scholarships to learn at vocational training centers. The data show that 113 women versus 92 men obtained national scholarships. Similarly, 30 women versus 20 men obtained international scholarships (figure 4.7.5).

Figure 4.7.5: Number of scholarship holders, by sex and type of scholarship received (national or international)



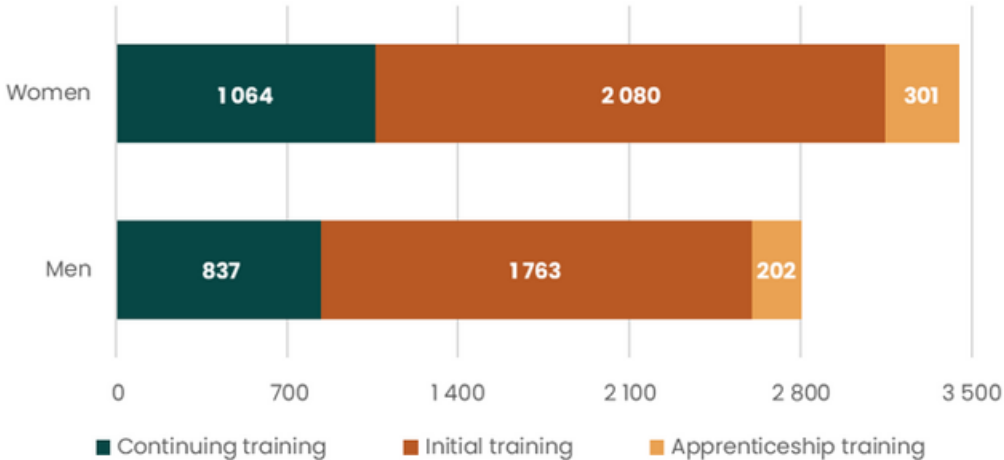
Sources: Cameroon Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training/ General Affairs Department / Budget Division 2021–22

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Integration of graduates into the workforce

On average, more women than men enter the workforce after vocational training. Among continuing education graduates, 1,064 women and 837 men entered the workforce after training—figure 4.7.6. Similarly a total of 2,080 women and 1,763 men entered the workforce following initial training while 301 women and 202 men entered the workforce following apprenticeship training.

Figure 4.7.6: Number of graduates from vocational training centers who obtained a job following their training, by sex and type of vocational training



Sources: Cameroon Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training and National Observatory of Employment and Vocational Training, data collection on vocational training, 2020–21

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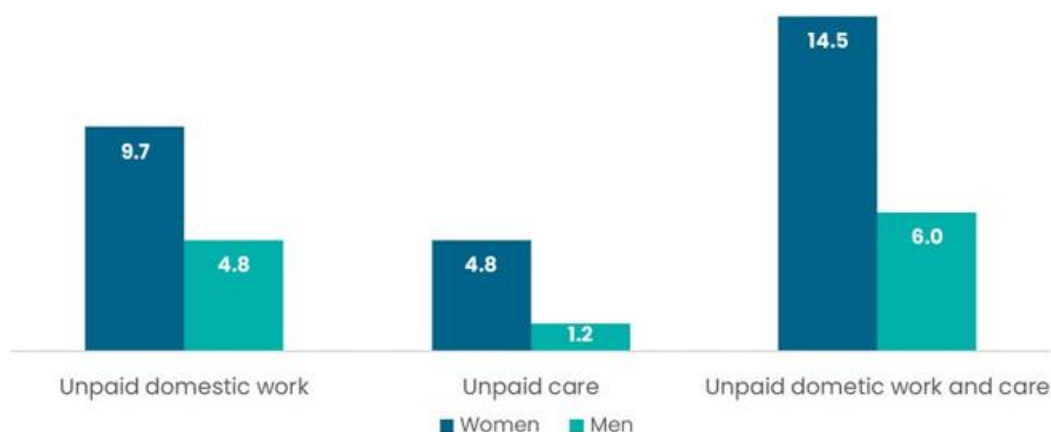
5.1 Time use

Unpaid work

Knowing how women and men divide their time between various activities over the course of a typical day is essential for understanding gender inequalities in society. A person's activities in the private sphere (that is, household chores and caregiving) have repercussions on the extent and nature of their participation in the public sphere (that is, paid work) and vice versa.

Data from the Third Survey on Employment and the Informal Sector in Cameroon show that women spend more than twice as much time as men do on unpaid housework and care (figure 5.1.1). On average, women devote 14.5 percent of their daily time (about 3.5 hours a day) to these activities, compared with 6.0 percent for men (about 1.0 hour a day). In detail, women spend an average of 9.7 percent of their time on domestic chores (vs. 4.8 percent for men) and 4.8 percent on unpaid care (vs. 1.2 percent for men).

Figure 5.1.1: Proportion of daily time devoted to domestic chores and unpaid care, by sex (%)



Source: Cameroon National Institute of Statistics, Third Survey on Employment and the Informal Sector in Cameroon, 2021

Total workload

Total workload represents the total time devoted to work (unpaid and paid). The allocation of time between paid and unpaid activities has implications for women's and men's incomes. Women have a higher total workload than men (6.6 hours a day on average vs. 6.0 hours for men)—figure 5.1.2. However, women

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devote a large proportion of their time to unpaid work (59 percent of total working time), whereas men devote the majority of their workload to paid activities (70 percent of workload). Thus, the figures show that women devote less time than men to paid work in absolute terms (2.7 hours per day on average versus 4.2 for men). Moreover, the proportion of total working time devoted to paid activities is lower for women (41 percent) than for men (70 percent). This distribution of workloads between women and men may contribute to the persistence of disparities in employment income to the detriment of women.

Figure 5.1.2: Average number of hours (per day) spent on paid and unpaid work, by sex



Source: Cameroon National Institute of Statistics, Third Survey on Employment and the Informal Sector in Cameroon, 2021

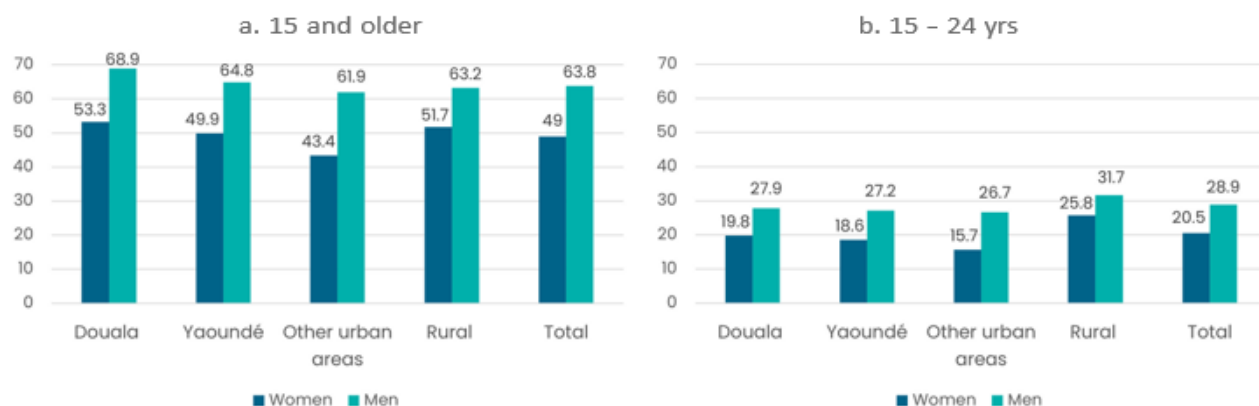
5.2 Labor force participation

Labor force participation and employment rates

Overall, the labor force participation rate is higher for men than for women (63.8 percent and 49 percent respectively). Among people aged 15 and older living in urban areas outside the major metropolises (Douala and Yaoundé), 61.9 percent of men participate in the labor market compared with 43.4 percent of women (a difference of 18.5 percentage points)—figure 5.2.1. In rural areas, the gender gap rises to 11.5 percentage points (63.2 percent of men participate in the labor market vs. 51.7 percent of women). These inequalities are naturally explained by the fact that men devote more of their time to paid work (70 percent of total working time vs. 41 percent for women).

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Figure 5.2.1: Labor force participation rate, by sex, age and place of residence (%)



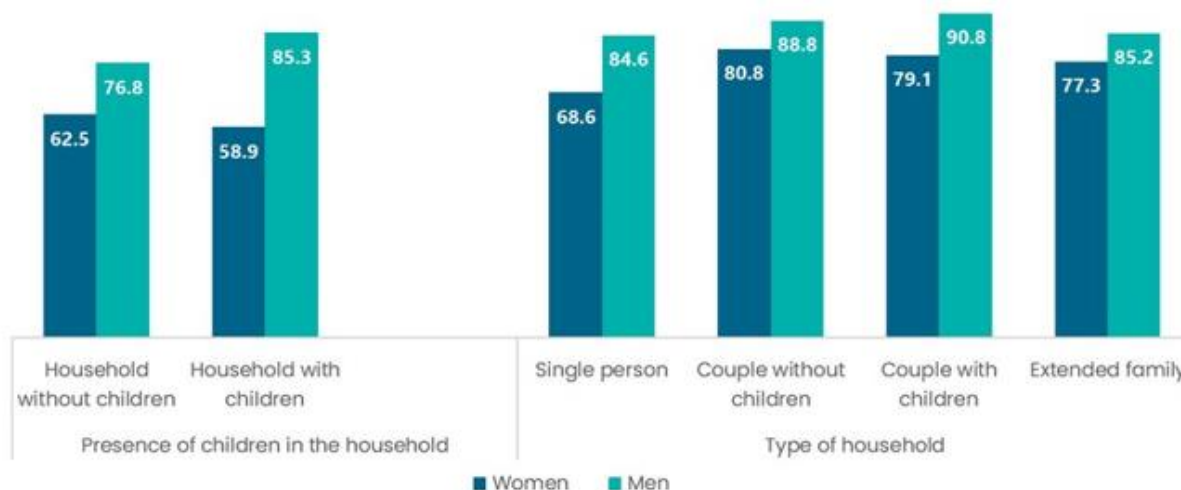
Source: Cameroon National Institute of Statistics, Third Survey on Employment and the Informal Sector in Cameroon, 2021

Analysis by age group reveals that the labor force participation rate is much lower for younger people (15–24). In urban areas outside the major metropolises, only 28.9 percent of young men versus 20.5 percent of young women participate in the labor market (a gender gap of 8.4 percentage points). As in the overall population, the gender gap is smaller among young people living in rural areas. The data show that 31.7 percent of young men and 25.8 percent of young women in rural areas participate in the labor market (a gap of 5.8 percentage points).

The employment-to-population ratio varies according to parental status. Overall, this ratio is lower for women than for men, meaning that women are less likely than men to be employed. Within households without children under the age of 5, the employment- to-population ratio was estimated in 2021 at 62.5 percent for women and 76.8 percent for men (figure 5.2.2).

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Figure 5.2.2: Employment-to-population ratio for the population ages 25-54, by sex and type of household (%)



Source: Cameroon National Institute of Statistics, Third Survey on Employment and the Informal Sector in Cameroon, 2021

In households without dependent children (one child below the age of 5), the employment-to-population ratio in 2021 was estimated at 62.5 percent for women and

76.8 percent for men. In households with dependent children, this ratio decreases to 58.9 percent for women, but increases to 85.3 percent for men. Similar variations can be observed when comparing the ratio for couples with and without dependent children. For couples without children, the ratio stands at 80.8 percent for women and 88.8 percent for men. This ratio drops to 79.1 percent for women in couples with children, while it rises to 90.8 percent for men in respective living arrangements.

Thus, the presence of children potentially reduces women’s participation in employment, whereas it tends to increase that of men. This situation maybe explained by the fact that women are mainly responsible for looking after children, which reduces the time they can devote to work. Moreover, men are generally the heads of the household and the main breadwinners. With children in the household, financial constraints increase, which may encourage men to work more to support their families.

In 2021, women were more likely than men to work part-time. In fact, 49.6 percent of employed women worked part-time, compared with 33.8 percent of employed men (figure 5.2.3). This gender difference could be explained by the fact that women already devote more of their available time to domestic work,

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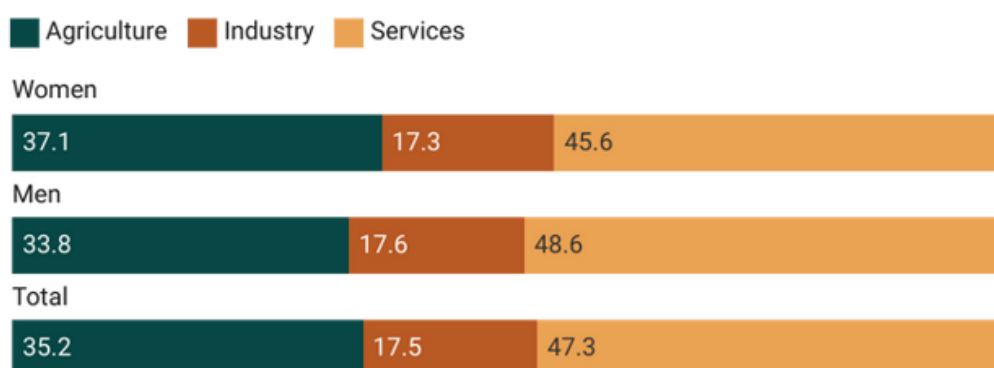
childcare or elderly care (see section 5.1 above). Part-time work is generally associated with lower pay, which limits earning potential. Consequently, the overrepresentation of women in part-time jobs is likely to exacerbate gender disparities, particularly in terms of income and economic well-being.

Figure 5.2.3: Proportion of employees working part-time, by sex (%)



Source: Cameroon National Institute of Statistics, Third Survey on Employment and the Informal Sector in Cameroon, 2021
 Analysis by sector of activity shows that the service sector employs the most people (47 percent of the working population), followed by agriculture (35 percent of the working population) and industry (17 percent of the working population)—figure 5.2.4. These percentages are more or less consistent for female and male populations.

Figure 5.2.4: Distribution of the working population by sector of employment (agriculture, industry and service), by sex (%)



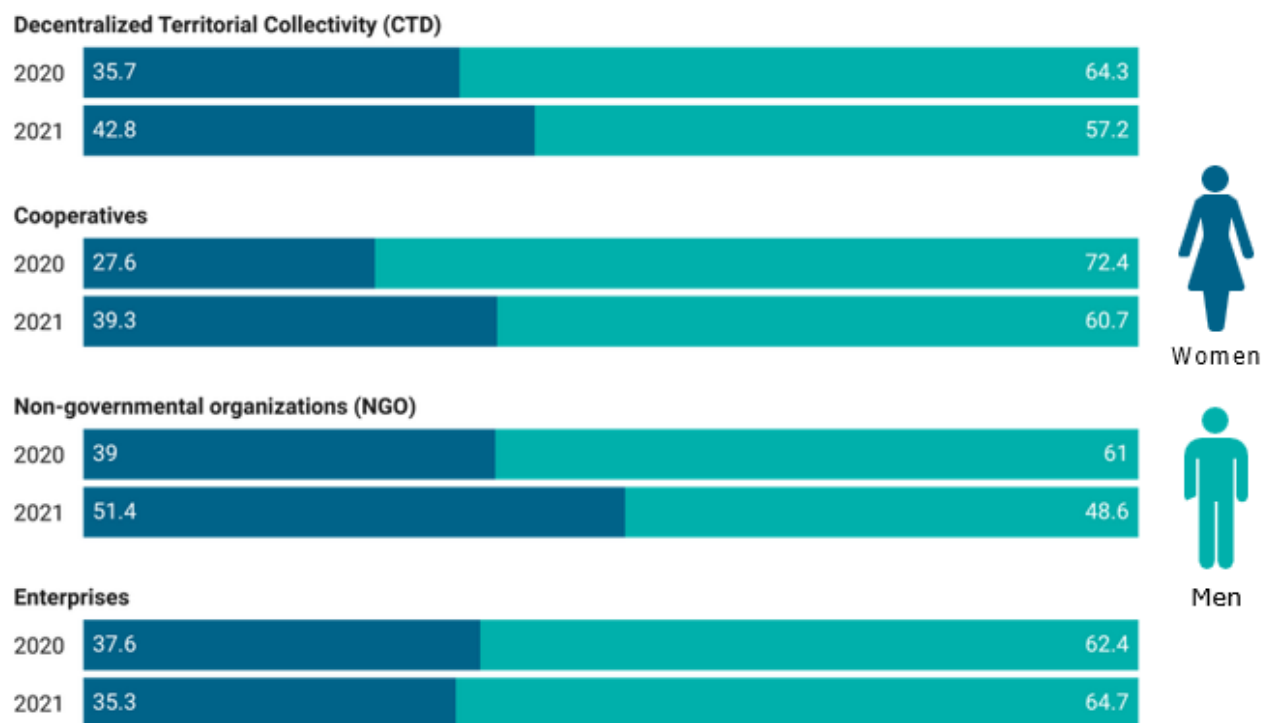
Source: Cameroon National Institute of Statistics, Third Survey on Employment and the Informal Sector in Cameroon, 2021

Moreover, national statistics show that fewer women than men occupy newly created jobs in all sectors of activity (figure 5.2.5). However, the proportion of women in newly created jobs increased between 2020 and 2021, notably in decentralized local authorities (35.7 percent in 2020 vs. 42.8 percent in 2021), cooperatives (27.6 percent in 2020 vs. 39.3 percent in 2021) and nongovernmental organizations (39.0

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percent in 2020 vs. 51.4 percent in 2021). By contrast, the proportion of women occupying jobs created in companies has fallen slightly, from 37.6 percent in 2020 to 35.3 percent in 2021.

Figure 5.2.5: Distribution of the population in newly created jobs, by sex and type of institution (%)

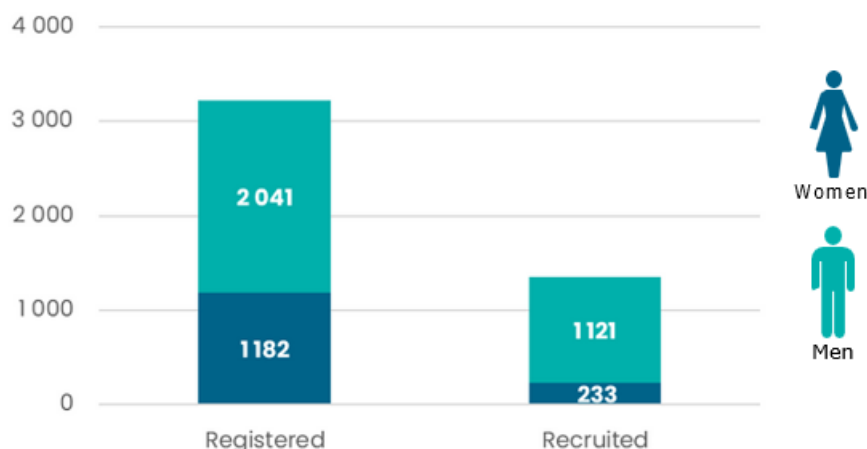


Sources: Cameroon Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training and National Observatory of Employment and Vocational Training, Employment Survey, 2021

Analysis of the labor market for first-time jobseekers—that is, individuals who have never worked and are looking for their first job—shows that more men than women identify as first-time jobseekers. First-time jobseekers registered in 2021 consisted of 1,182 women and 2,041 men (figure 5.2.6). Those hired in the same year numbered 233 women (19.7 percent of the total number of female first-time jobseekers registered in 2021) and 1,121 men (54.9 percent of the total number of male first-time jobseekers registered in 2021).

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Figure 5.2.6: Number of first-time jobseekers registered and recruited by companies, by sex



Sources: Cameroon Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training and National Observatory of Employment and Vocational Training, Employment Survey, 2021

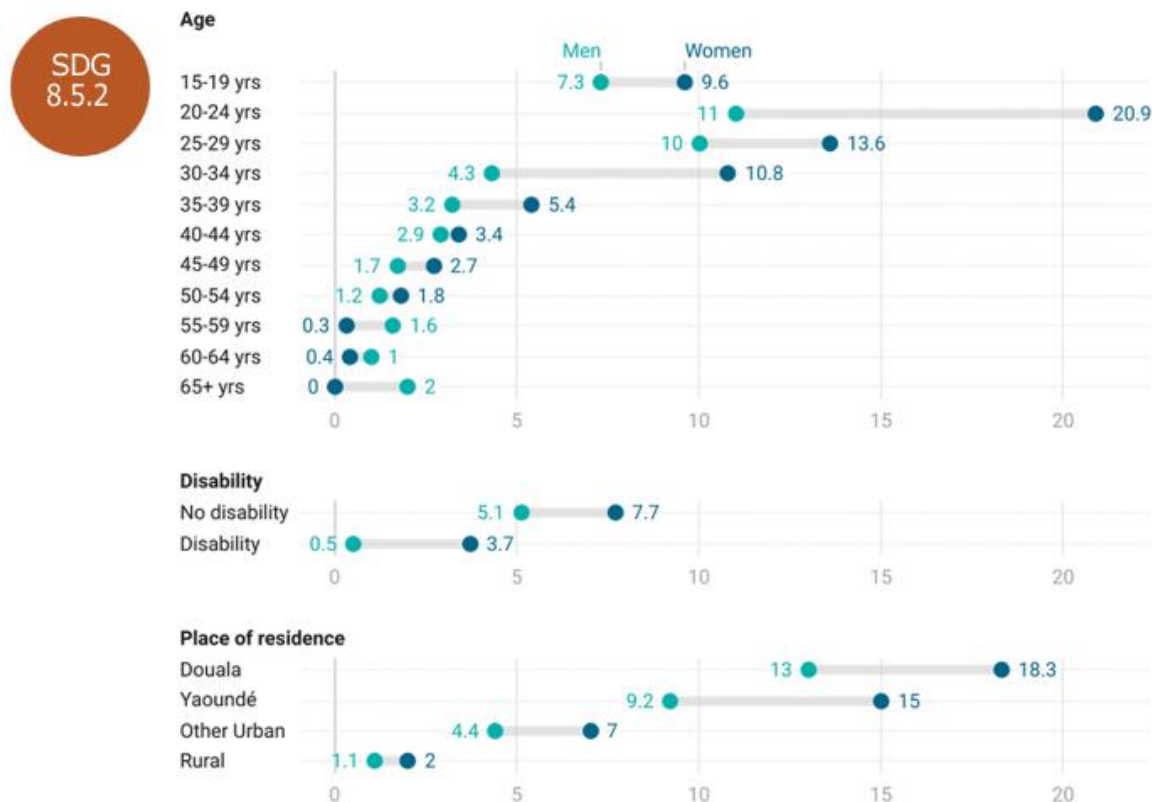
Unemployed population

Overall, the unemployment rate is higher for women than for men, regardless of age group, place of residence, or prevalence of disability. The difference between male and female unemployment rates remains relatively small for the youngest age cohort (a gap of 2.3 percentage points in favor of men within the population aged 15–19) but increases rapidly to a maximum gap of 9.9 percentage points in favor of men within the population aged 20–24 (figure 5.2.7). In this age bracket, the unemployment rate for women (20.9 percent) is almost double that of men (11 percent). The gender gap in unemployment then narrows, but it remains high (6.5 percentage points in favor of men) until the age of 30–34. Beyond the age of 34, the difference between male and female unemployment rates remains small, at under 2.5 percentage points.

In addition, the gender gap in unemployment is much greater in urban than in rural areas. In the city of Yaoundé, for example, the unemployment rate is 9.2 percent for men versus 15 percent for women, a gap of 5.8 percentage points. A similar trend can be observed in Douala and other urban centers.

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Figure 5.2.7: Unemployment rate, by sex, age, disability status, and place of residence (%)



Source: Cameroon National Institute of Statistics, Third Survey on Employment and the Informal Sector in Cameroon, 2021

Disability also has a strong influence on gender inequality in unemployment. The data show that unemployed men account for 5.1 percent of nondisabled people, whereas unemployed women account for 7.7 percent. Furthermore, within the population of people living with a disability, the unemployed represent 4.2 percent, broken down as follows: 0.5 percent men and 3.7 percent women. Consequently, the gender gap in unemployment rates within the disabled population (3.2 percentage points) is slightly larger than that of the nondisabled population (2.6 percentage points).

Young people not in employment, education, or training (NEET)

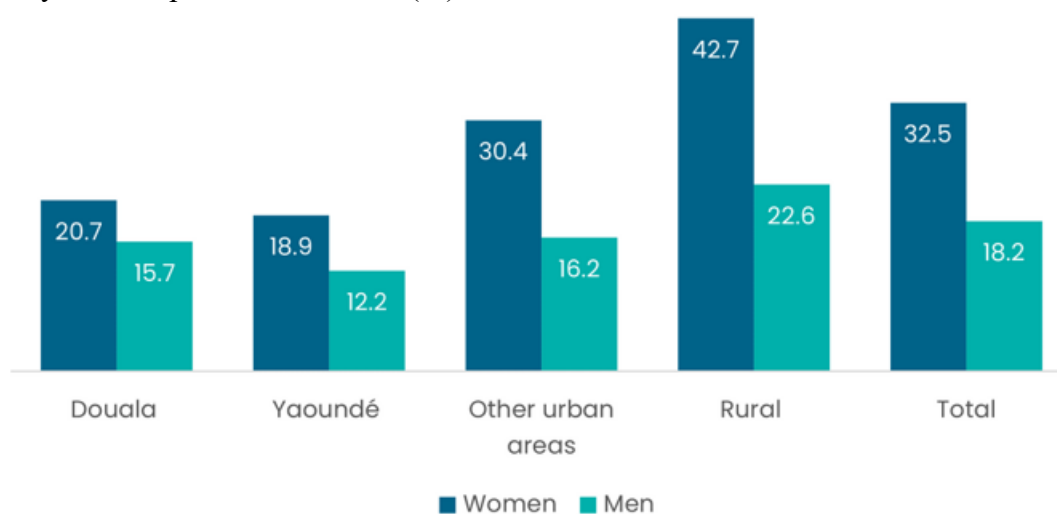
The NEET rate measures the proportion of young people aged 15-24 who are not in employment, education, or training. Young people outside the school system and the job market may see the skills they have acquired erode over time and are less likely to be economically self-sufficient. Moreover, a disproportionately high NEET rate among women could be a source of increased gender inequality, particularly in economic terms. Identifying these young people is therefore crucial to the development and

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implementation of policies aimed at helping them make a successful transition to the job market and participate fully in the country’s development.

In Cameroon, the percentage of people who are NEET varies according to gender and place of residence. Overall, the share of NEET is higher among young women than men (32.5 percent and 18.2 percent respectively).

Figure 5.2.8: Proportion of young people aged 15–24 not in employment, education, or training in Cameroon, by sex and place of residence (%)



Source: Cameroon National Institute of Statistics, Third Survey on Employment and the Informal Sector in Cameroon, 2021

Figure 5.2.8 shows that, in rural areas, 42.7 percent of young women and 22.6 percent of young men are neither students nor employed. This proportion drops to 30.4 percent for young women and 16.2 percent for young men living in urban areas outside the major capital cities.

5.3 Employment characteristics

Informal employment

Informal jobs are characterized by low wages, lack of benefits such as paid leave, and access to social security. Thus, the predominance of informal work among women could contribute to economic disparities to their disadvantage. Data from the Third Survey on Employment and the Informal Sector in Cameroon show that the share of informal jobs in the nonagricultural sector is higher among women than men (56.3 percent and 55 percent respectively) (figure 5.3.1). In the city of Douala, where the proportion of informal

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jobs in the non-agricultural sector is highest, this proportion is 92.0 percent for women versus 84.0 percent for men. In Yaoundé, the proportion drops to 79.8 percent for women and 78.1 percent for men. Similarly, in other urban centers, the percentage of informal jobs in the non-agricultural sector falls to 63.9 percent for women and 65.7 percent for men. Gender disparities are also present in rural areas, with a rate of 35.5 percent for women, compared to 29.9 percent for men.

Figure 5.3.1: Proportion of informal jobs in the non-agricultural sector, by sex and place of residence (%)



Source: Cameroon National Institute of Statistics, Third Survey on Employment and the Informal Sector in Cameroon, 2021

Proportion of employed by employment status

The proportion of contributing family workers – those workers who help in a family member’s business or operations - is much higher among women than men (5.4 percent and 2.5 percent respectively). Data show that in rural areas 9.8 percent of employed women work as contributing family workers, compared with 4.9 percent of men (figure 5.3.2). These figures drop drastically in urban areas. In the city of Yaoundé, for example, the proportion of people employed as contributing family workers drops to 1.7 percent for women and 0.6 percent for men.

Among self-employed workers, women make up the majority (67.6 percent vs. 46.2 percent among men) (figure 5.3.3). In the city of Douala, 65.5 percent of women are self-employed, compared with 35.9 percent of men. This gender difference diminishes markedly in rural areas, where 72.2 percent of women are self-employed, compared with 59.6 percent of men.

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Figure 5.3.2: Proportion of employed who are contributing family workers, by sex and place of residence (%)

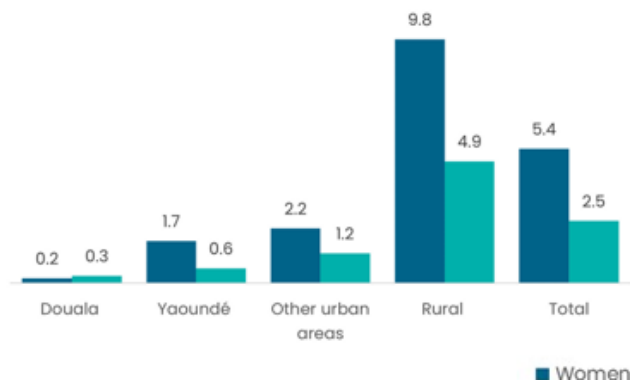


Figure 5.3.3: Proportion of employed who are own account workers, by sex and place of residence (%)

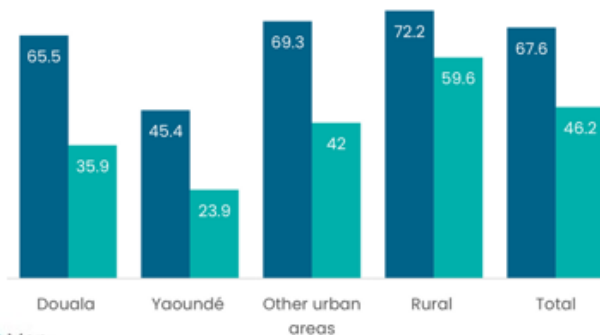


Figure 5.3.4: Proportion of employed who are employers, by sex and place of residence (%)



Source for all three figures: Cameroon National Institute of Statistics, Third Survey on Employment and the Informal Sector in Cameroon, 2021

In contrast, the proportion of the labor force who are employers is quite low overall, less than 10 percent of the total employed population. Gender analysis shows, however, that the proportion of employers is higher among working men (2.3 percent) than women (0.8 percent), both in urban and rural areas (figure 5.3.4). In the city of Douala, the proportions of employed men and women who are employers are 3.2 percent and 1.1 percent, respectively (figure 5.3.4). These proportions drop in rural areas to 1.6 percent for men and 0.3 percent for women.

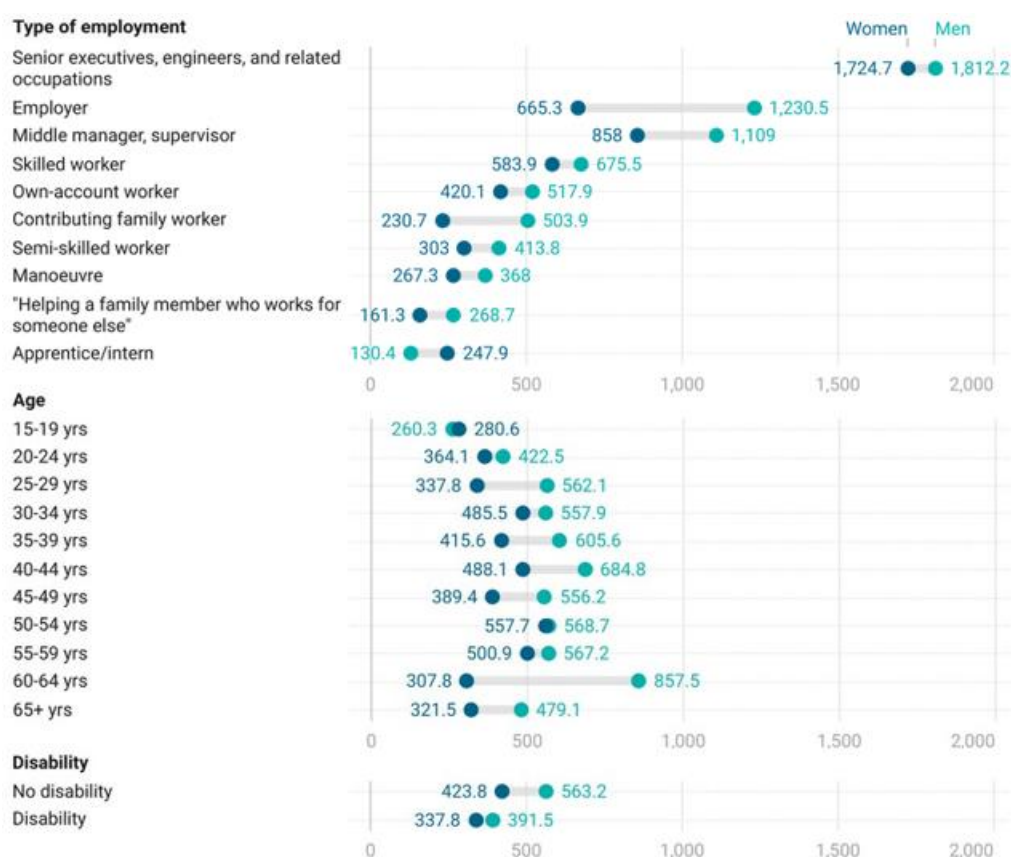
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5.4 Compensation

Hourly wage

Overall, the average hourly wage in Cameroon is 589.60 CFA francs (CFAF) but is higher for men (CFAF 672.40) than for women (CFAF 496.40)—that is an average pay gap of CFAF 176.00 Overall, women generally receive lower wages than men, regardless of employment type or age bracket (figure 5.4.1).

Figure 5.4.1: Average hourly wage (in CFAF) for employees, by sex, socio-professional category, age, and disability status



Source: Cameroon National Institute of Statistics, Third Survey on Employment and the Informal Sector in Cameroon, 2021

The magnitude of pay inequalities between male and female workers is greatest in the categories of employees who are employers (a pay gap of CFAF 565.00 in favor of men) and middle managers or supervisors (a pay gap of CFAF 251.00 in favor of men). In addition, the gender wage gap increases

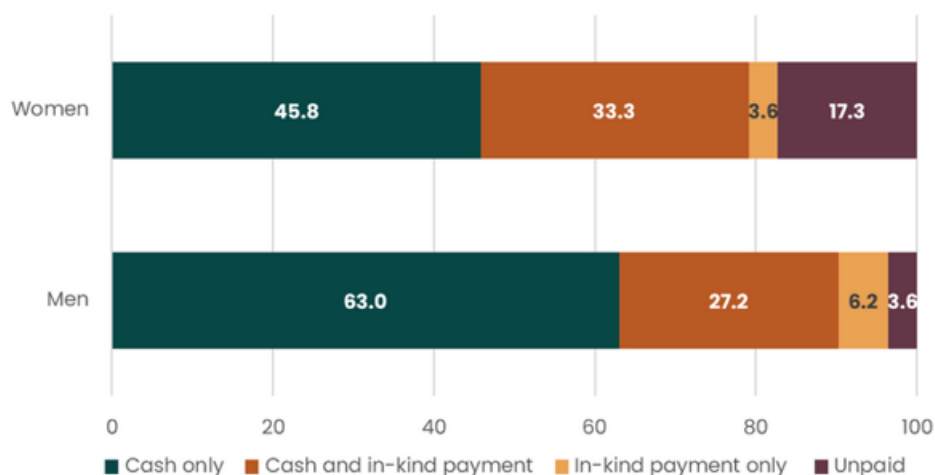
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gradually with age, reaching a maximum of CFAF 549.70 in the 60–64 age bracket. The data also show that the presence of a disability does not exacerbate the gender pay gap.

Type of compensation

Overall, of married people aged 15–49, almost three-quarters (74 percent) of women and almost all (99 percent) of men ages 15–said they had worked in the 12 months preceding the survey. Analysis by type of remuneration shows that 45.8 percent of women and 63.0 percent of men received remuneration solely in cash (figure 5.4.2). Similarly, the proportion of women (33.3 percent) receiving remuneration both in cash and in kind is higher than that of men (27.2 percent). About 17 out of every 100 women said they were not paid for their work, compared with about 4 out of every 100 men. These data once again demonstrate the disproportionate burden of unpaid work for women.

Figure 5.4.2: Distribution of persons who worked for pay, by sex and type of pay (%)



Sources: Cameroon National Institute of Statistics, Demographic and Health Survey, 2018

5.5 Entrepreneurship

According to Cameroon’s General Business Census, in 2016, only 11.4 percent of business proponents of large enterprises were women (figure 5.5.1). This proportion decreases with company size (that is, the smaller the company, the higher the proportion of female business proponents).

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For medium enterprises, 34 percent of business proponents were women, and the proportions are 33.5 percent for small enterprises and 38.5 percent for micro enterprises. Gender analysis shows that, among companies overall, 37.2 percent of business proponents and 42.7 percent of directors or chief executive officers of enterprises are women (figure 5.5.2). On the whole, men create more businesses than women, regardless of business size (figure 5.5.3). These statistics show that entrepreneurship is dominated by men, which could be the consequence of gender inequalities that exist in both education and time available for paid work.

Figure 5.5.1: Proportion of female business proponents, by company size (%)

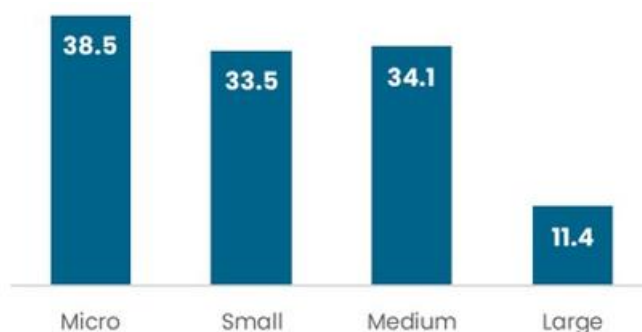


Figure 5.5.2: Distribution of companies, by sex of promoter and main manager (%)

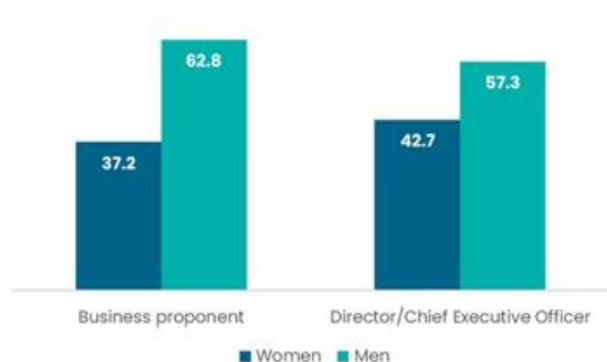
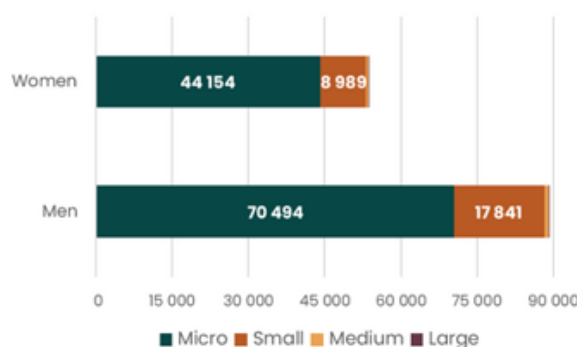


Figure 5.5.3: Number of newly created companies, by sex of proponent and company size



Sources for all three figures: Cameroon National Institute of Statistics, Second General Business Census, 2016

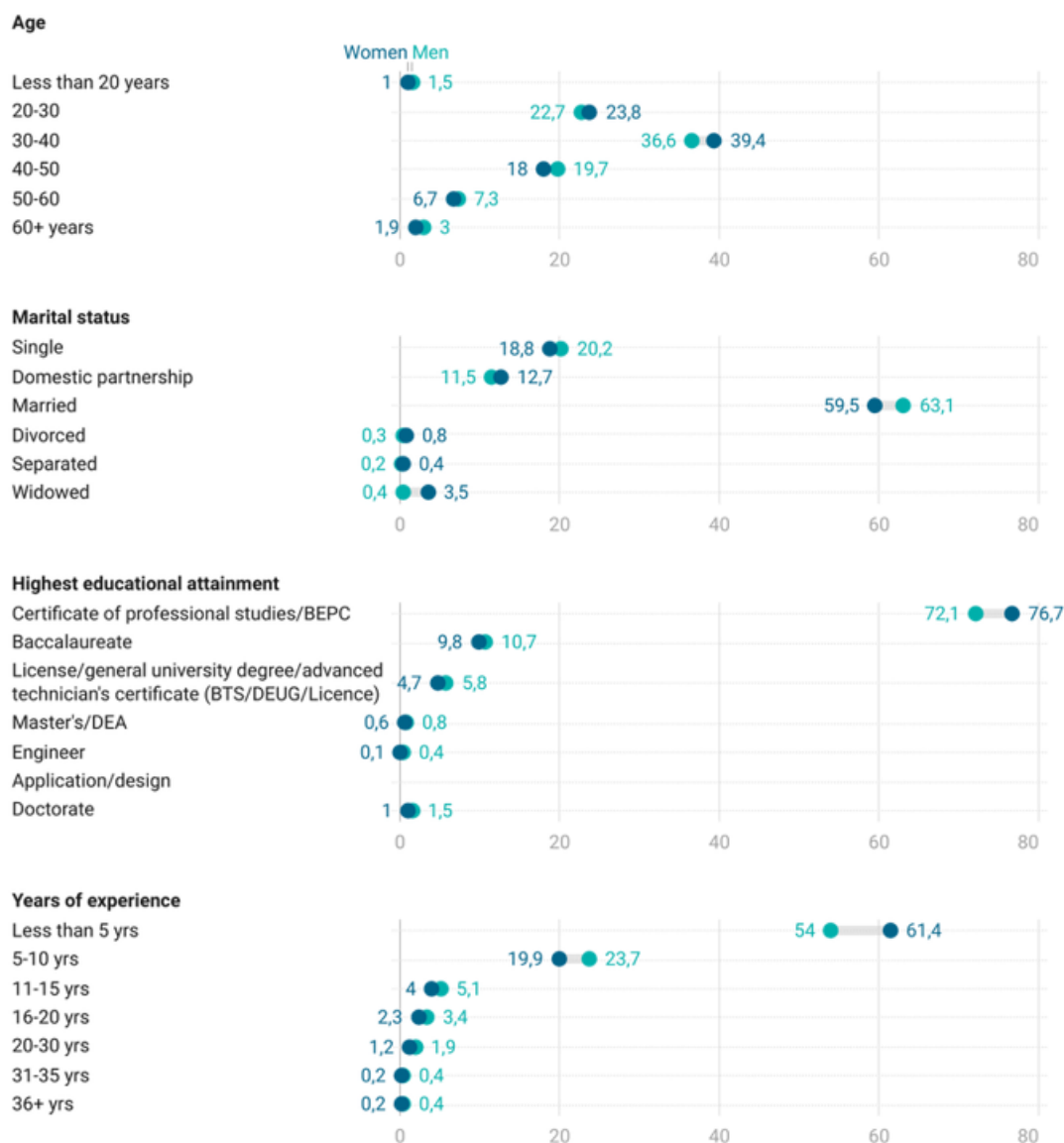
An analysis of the profile of entrepreneurs by gender shows that disparities exist mainly in the 30–40 age group, with the proportion of female entrepreneurs estimated at 39.4 percent, compared with 36.6 percent for men, among entrepreneurs with lower- secondary education (76.7 percent of female entrepreneurs vs.

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72.1 percent of male entrepreneurs) and among entrepreneurs with less than five years of experience (61.4 percent of female entrepreneurs vs. 54.0 percent of male entrepreneurs) (figure 5.5.4).

In addition, large gaps in favor of men exist among married people (63.1 percent of male entrepreneurs vs. 59.5 percent of female entrepreneurs) and among entrepreneurs with between 5 and 10 years of experience (23.7 percent of male entrepreneurs vs. 19.9 percent of female entrepreneurs).

Figure 5.5.4: Proportion of entrepreneurs, by sex and socio-demographic characteristics (%)



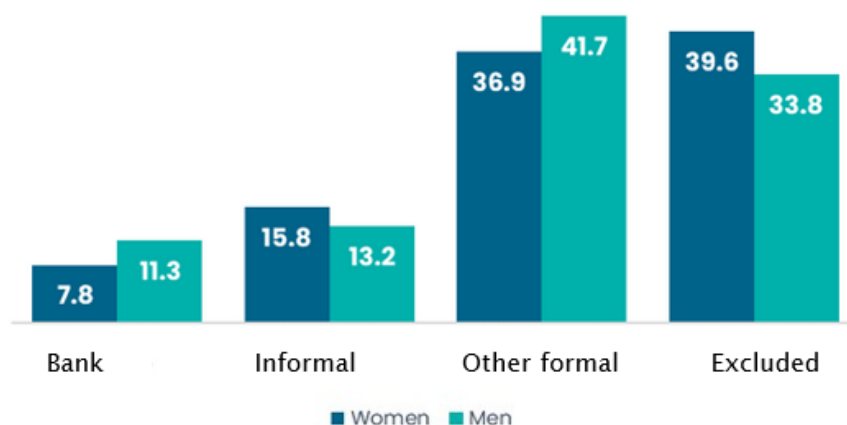
Source: Cameroon National Institute of Statistics, Second General Business Census, 2016

6. ASSETS

6.1 Financial products and services

The proportion of people aged 15 and older with an account, whether with a bank or another financial institution, is higher among men than women. According to data from the FINSCOPE 2017 survey, on average, almost 2 in 10 men (19.6 percent) and 1 in 10 women (9.9 percent) own and use a bank account. In addition, 11.3 percent of men and 7.8 percent of women have access to formal financial services and products offered by banks, and 41.7 percent and 36.9 percent, respectively, have access to formal financial services outside the banking system (figure 6.1.1). In addition, gender analysis shows that the percentage of women with access informal financial products and services is significantly higher than that of men (15.8 percent for women vs. 13.2 percent for men).

Figure 6.1.1: Proportion of persons aged 15 and above who have access to financial services and products (%)



Source: FINSCOPE 2017

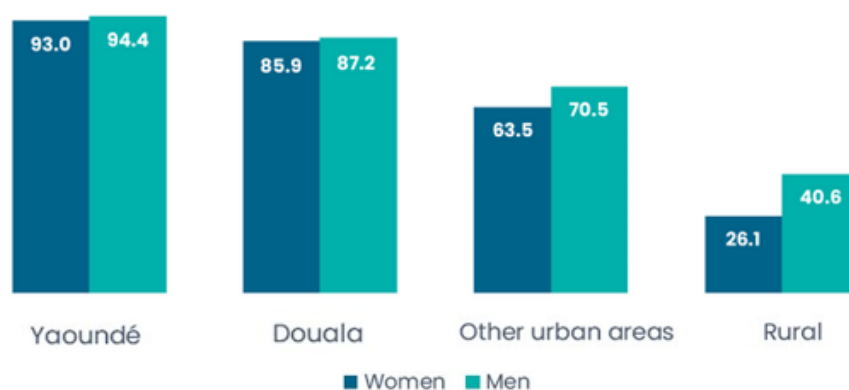
6.2 Access to mobile phone and media

Access to cell phones and media differ by gender, with the proportion of people who own a cell phone higher among men than women. According to Demographic and Health Survey 2018 data, on average, 76.9 percent of men aged 15–49 own a cell phone compared with 63.6 percent of women in the same age bracket.

6. ASSETS

In terms of media access, a higher proportion of male-headed households have access to media such as radio, TV, and the internet. The gap in media access between male- and female-headed households is more pronounced in rural areas, where access to media is generally lower. In the city of Yaoundé, 93.0 percent of female-headed households and 94.4 percent of male-headed households have access to the various media (figure 6.2.1). In contrast, 26.1 percent of female-headed households in rural areas have access to media compared to 40.6 percent of male-headed households.

Figure 6.2.1: Proportion of households with access to the media (radio, television, and internet) in Cameroon, by sex of head of household and place of residence (%)



Source: Cameroon National Institute of Statistics, Third Survey on Employment and the Informal Sector in Cameroon, 2021

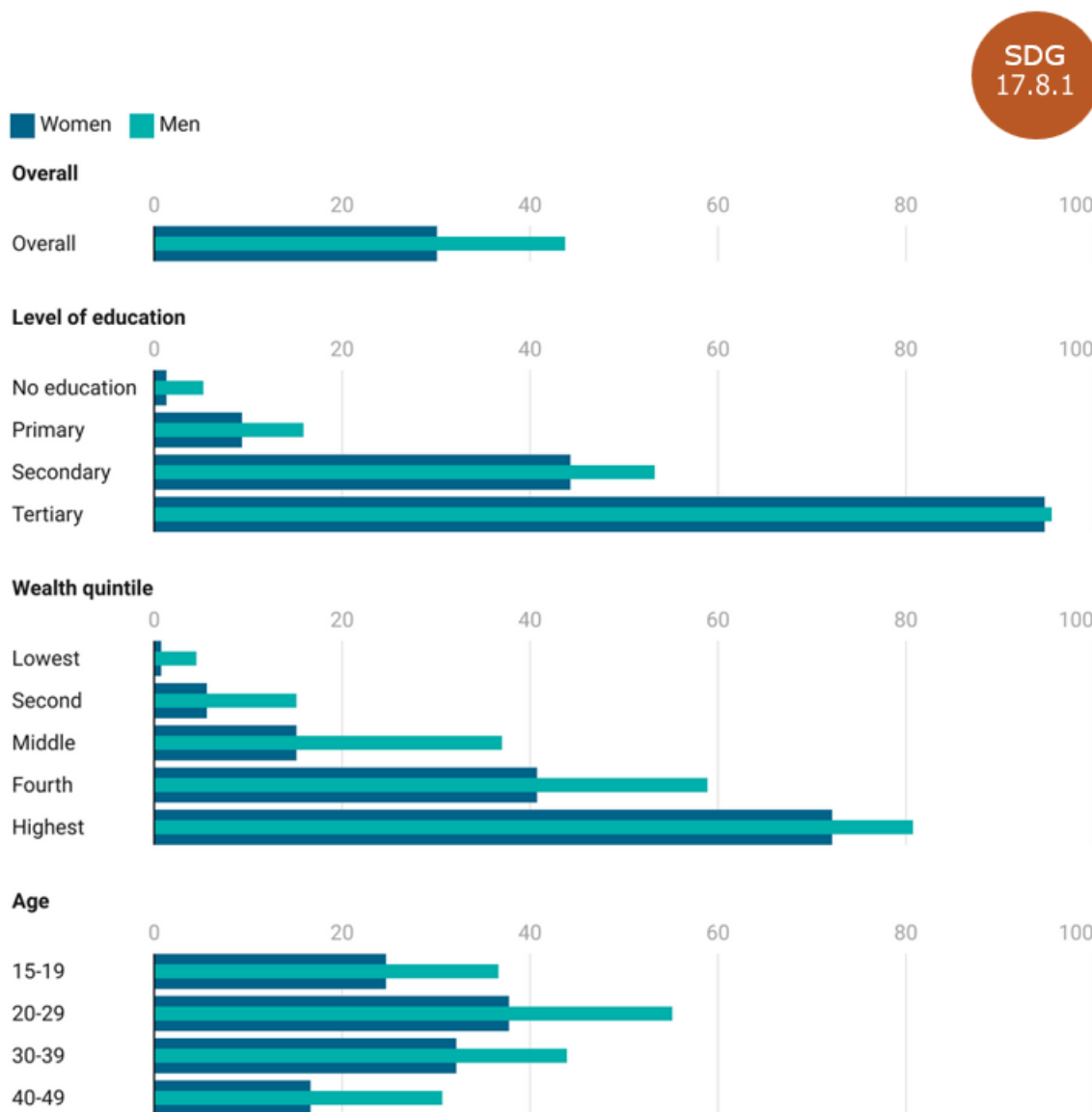
6.3 Internet access

Overall, the proportion of people aged 15–49 using the internet is higher among men (43.8 percent) than among women (30.1 percent), and internet use increases with level of education (figure 6.3.1). The proportion of women using the internet varies from 1.3 percent among those with no education, to 44.3 percent among those with secondary education, and to 94.8 percent among those with tertiary education.

Men's internet use follows a similar trend, with percentages of 5.2 percent, 53.2 percent, and 95.5 percent, respectively. The gender gap in internet use varies according to level of education. It rises from 3.9 percentage points in favor of men among those with no education, to 8.9 points in favor of men among those with secondary education, and then decreases and almost disappears (only 0.7 point in favor of men) in the population with tertiary education.

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Figure 6.3.1: Distribution of persons using who have already used the internet, by sex, level of education, wealth quintile, and age (%)



Sources: Cameroon National Institute of Statistics, Demographic and Health Survey, 2018

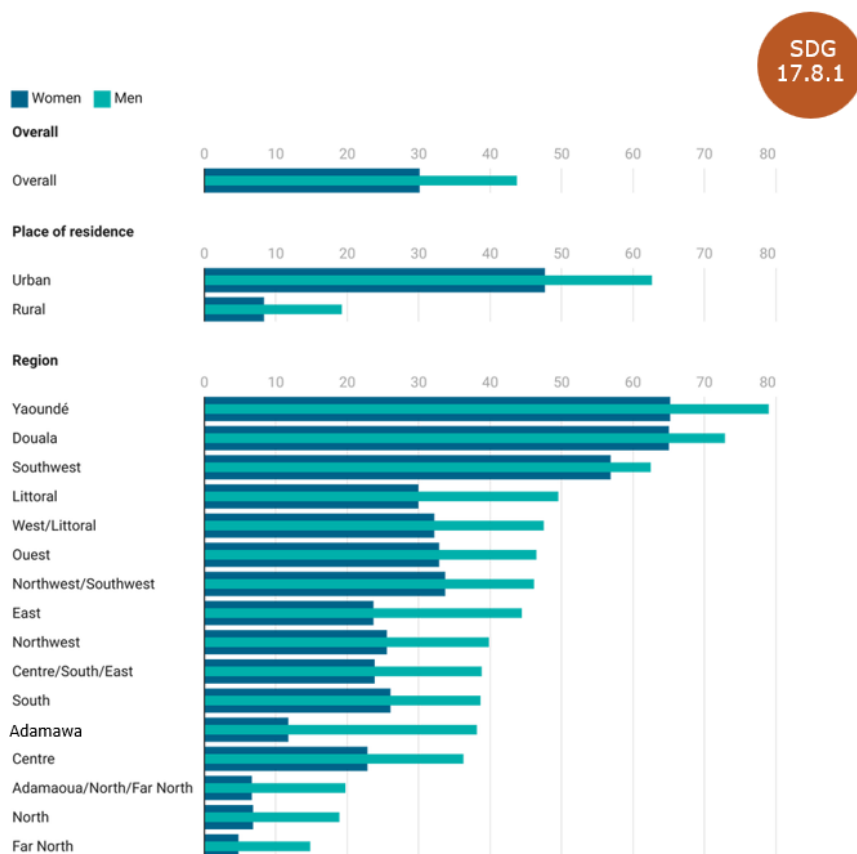
The proportions of women and men using internet increase significantly from the lowest wealth quintile (0.7 percent for women and 4.5 percent for men) to the highest quintile (72.1 percent for women and 80.8 percent for men). Notably, the gender gap in Internet access widens as economic well-being improves. It rises from 3.8 percentage points in favor of men in the lowest quintile to 8.7 percentage points in favor of men in the highest quintile. In terms of age, internet use is higher among the youngest (15-39) than the

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oldest (40-49) age groups, for both men and women. However, the gender gap in internet use remains wide and favors men across all age groups.

Disparities in internet use also vary according to place of residence and region. In rural areas, 8.3 percent of women versus 19.3 percent of men use the internet, a difference of 11 percentage points (figure 6.3.2). In urban areas, these proportions increase, as does the gender gap. The rate of internet use rises to 47.6 percent for women and 62.7 percent for men, a difference of 15.1 percentage points. Compared to the rest of Cameroon, the Far North (4.8 percent of women and 14.8 percent of men) and North (6.8 percent of women and 18.8 percent of men) regions have the lowest percentages of people who used the internet in the twelve months before the survey. These percentages are significantly higher in Douala (65.7 percent of women and 72.8 percent of men) and Yaoundé (65.2 percent of women and 79 percent of men).

Figure 6.3.2: Distribution of persons who have already used the internet, by sex, place of residence and region (%)



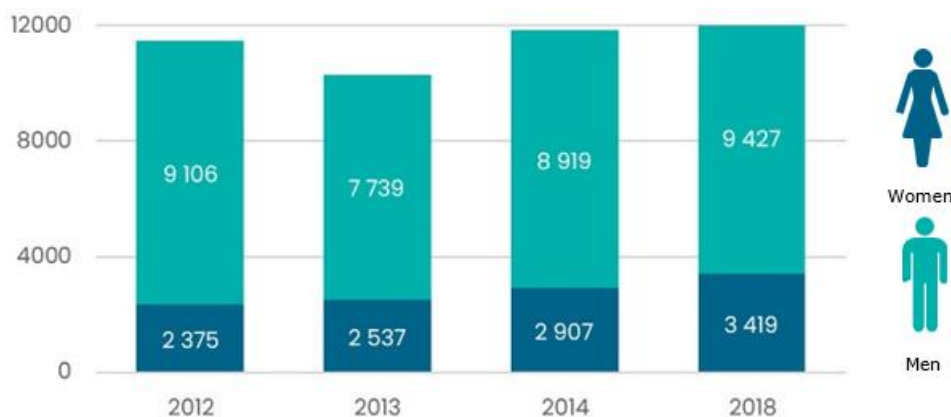
Sources: Cameroon National Institute of Statistics, Demographic and Health Survey, 2018

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6.4 Land ownership

Over the past decade, an increasing number of land titles have been issued to both women and men. Between 2012 and 2018, the number of land titles issued rose from 2,375 to 3,419 for women and from 9,106 to 9,427 for men (figure 6.4.1). This increase is reflected in, among other things, an increase in the proportion of the adult population owning arable land or a house and having a land title for these assets. The data reveal that the share of women owning land with a title in their name rose from 2.8 percent in 2011 to 8.0 percent in 2018. Over the same period, the share of women with legal title to a house rose from 2.7 percent to 10.6 percent.

Figure 6.4.1: Number of land titles issued to individuals, by sex and selected years



Sources: Cameroon National Institute of Statistics, Statistical Yearbook, 2019

Despite this increase, gender inequalities in landownership persist, with a 3.1- percentage-point higher proportion of men holding a land title in their own name compared to women holding such a title (11.1 percent for men vs. 8.0 percent for women). Moreover, nearly twice as many men (19.1 percent) as women (10.6 percent) have title to a house. This inequality could have numerous long-term consequences for women, particularly widows, given the risk of expropriation in the event of their spouse's death.

Breaking down the overall proportion of home- and landowners (male and female) by wealth quintile and property type provides a better understanding of the differences between men and women in terms of asset ownership. When it comes to rates of sole ownership of land, men are almost nine times more likely to be sole owners than women. This gender gap persists regardless of wealth quintile, although it narrows as

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household wealth increases. For land, the gender gap for the lowest wealth quintile is 40.8 percentage points, decreasing to 6.5 percentage points for the highest quintile (figure 6.4.2).

Figure 6.4.2: Distribution of persons who report owning land, by sex, wealth quintile and type of ownership (alone, jointly, alone and jointly, not owning) (%)

Percentage who own land:

	Cameroon	Lowest	Second	Middle	Fourth	Highest
Owns alone [Women]	2.9	4.4	4.3	2.3	2.1	1.9
Owns alone [Men]	25.3	45.2	37.3	17.3	12.5	8.4
Owns jointly [Women]	6.2	5.5	10.0	7.8	5.0	3.5
Owns jointly [Men]	5.0	5.4	6.0	4.9	3.6	2.9
Owns alone and jointly [Women]	1.9	2.8	2.7	1.9	1.2	1.1
Owns alone and jointly [Men]	2.8	1.8	4.2	3.8	1.1	0.5
Does not own [Women]	89.1	87.3	83.0	88.0	91.7	93.5
Does not own [Men]	66.9	47.6	52.5	74.0	82.8	88.2

Sources: Cameroon National Institute of Statistics, Demographic and Health Survey, 2018

Regarding individual landownership, women and men in the lowest wealth quintiles are more likely to own land on their own than those in the highest wealth quintiles. Men in the bottom quintile (45.2 percent) are 5.5 times more likely to own land than men in the top quintile (8.4 percent)—figure 6.4.2. Women in the lowest wealth quintile (4.4 percent) are more than two times as likely to own land as women in the highest wealth quintile (1.9 percent). For joint ownership of land, women are more likely than men to report owning land jointly, regardless of wealth quintile.

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Trends and rates of individual homeownership are similar to those for landownership: men are nine times more likely than women to own a home alone, and the gender gap narrows as household wealth increases. In the lowest wealth quintile, men are over 14 times more likely to own a home than women; however, in the highest wealth quintile, the gap narrows significantly, with men only 4 times more likely to own a home than women (figure 6.4.3). When it comes to joint homeownership, women are about 3 times more likely than men to report owning a home jointly, regardless of wealth quintile.

Figure 6.4.3: Distribution of persons who report owning a house, by sex, wealth quintile and type of ownership (alone, jointly, alone and jointly, not owning) (%)

Percentage who own a home:



	Cameroon	Lowest	Second	Middle	Fourth	Highest
Owens alone [Women]	2.6	3.4	2.9	2.8	2.0	2.0
Owens alone [Men]	25.6	48.6	31.3	16.1	10.9	8.0
Owens jointly [Women]	9.4	8.0	12.0	10.3	8.5	8.3
Owens jointly [Men]	4.4	3.1	4.1	3.9	2.7	2.9
Owens alone and jointly [Women]	1.7	0.7	2.1	2.0	1.6	1.8
Owens alone and jointly [Men]	2.1	1.8	2.6	1.8	1.7	0.9
Does not own [Women]	86.4	87.9	83.0	84.9	87.8	88.0
Does not own [Men]	67.9	46.6	62.0	78.2	84.7	88.2

Sources: Cameroon National Institute of Statistics, Demographic and Health Survey, 2018

Even as joint owners, women often lack decision-making rights over the property, such as the right to sell or rent it, and must ask permission from their spouse or family. Consequently, men may declare that they alone own the asset, whereas women declare that they own that same asset jointly. The proportion of women who declare that they do not own a home remains relatively constant across wealth quintiles,

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between 83 percent and 88 percent, with no discernible trend (figure 6.4.3). In contrast, the percentage of men declaring that they do not own a home increases with wealth quintile, rising from 46.6 percent in the lowest quintile to 88.2 percent in the highest.

Articles 723, 731, 745, and 767 of the Cameroon's Civil Code provide for equal rights for surviving spouses regardless of sex, as well as for boys and girls in matters of inheritance. However, article 1428 of the Civil Code, which does not allow equal ownership of real estate assets (land and housing), may account for the wide gap in property ownership. In addition to possible policy reform, land registration programs, particularly those that encourage joint registration by both spouses, could improve landownership and security of tenure among women.

7. GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

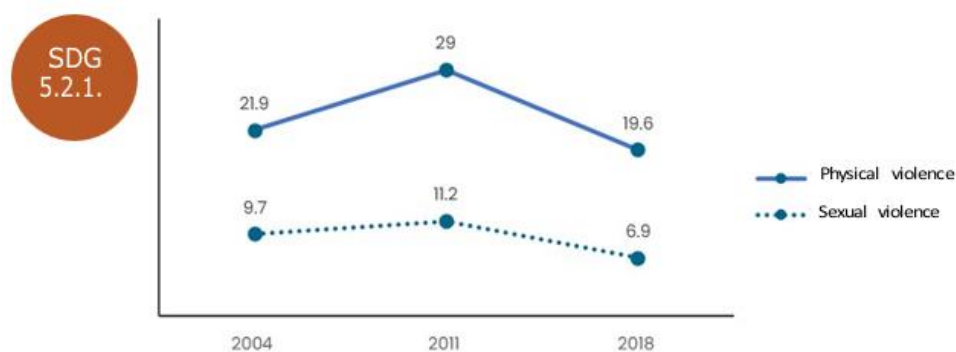
7.1 Physical, sexual, and emotional violence

Box 3: Definitions of concepts relating to gender-based violence

Prevalence of intimate partner violence = the proportion (in percentage) of women aged 15 - 49 who are married or who have ended a relationship who have experienced violence (physical, sexual or émotional or a combination of these types of violence) by an intimate partner (i.e. a current or former spouse or partner). Figures 7.1.1 et 7.1.2 both refer to intimate partner violence.

The United Nations Population Fund defines gender-based or gender-specific violence as violence directed specifically against a man or a woman because of their sex, or violence that affects women or men disproportionately^[13]. Women and girls, however, are usually the victims of such violence. Data from the Demographic and Health Survey show that, in 2018, about 32 percent of women and 22 percent of men in a relationship or having just ended a relationship had experienced emotional, physical, and/or sexual violence at the hands of their partner.

Figure 7.1.1: Proportion of women aged 15-49 who experienced physical or sexual violence in the previous 12 months preceding the survey, by selected years (%)



Sources: Cameroon National Institute of Statistics, Demographic and Health Survey, 2004, 2011, and 2018

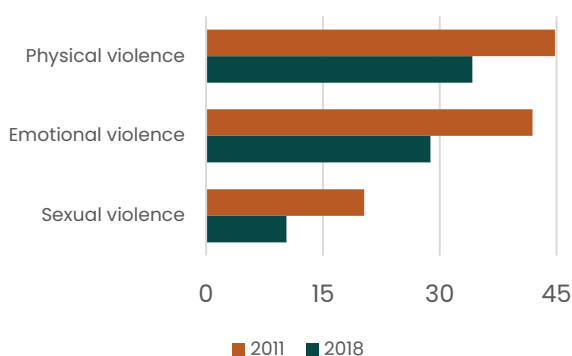
^[13] UNFPA, Sexual Violence in Crisis in the Department of Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 2007.

7. GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

Data from the DHS show that the percentage of currently partnered-women aged 15-49 who had suffered physical or sexual violence at the hands of their current or previous husband/partner in the 12 months preceding the survey increased between 2004 and 2011: the percentage of women aged 15-49 who had suffered physical violence rose from 21.9 percent in 2004 to 28 percent in 2011, and of those who suffered sexual violence rose from 9.7 percent to 11.2 percent over the same period. In 2018, these percentages fell back to 19.6 percent for physical violence and 6.9 percent for sexual violence (Graph 7.1.1).

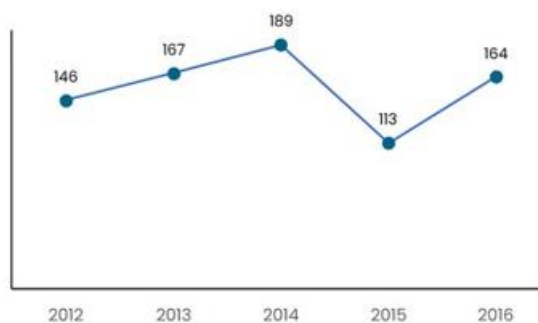
In addition, there has been a decrease in the percentage of women who have experienced violence from their current or previous husband/partner at some point in their lives. Graph 7.1.2 shows that the share of women who have ever experienced physical intimate-partner violence has fallen from 44.8 percent in 2011 to 34.2 percent in 2018, and the share of those who have encountered sexual and emotional violence has decreased from 41.9 percent to 28.8 percent and 20.3 percent to 10.3 percent respectively over the same period.

Figure 7.1.2: Proportion of women aged 15-49 who have experienced physical, emotional, or sexual violence, by selected years (%)



Sources: Cameroon National Institute of Statistics, Demographic and Health Survey–Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, 2011 and Demographic and Health Survey 2018

Figure 7.1.3: Number of young girls and women victims of rape, by selected years



Sources: Cameroon National Institute of Statistics, Demographic and Health Survey, 2018

In contrast, the number of cases of rape committed against women and girls has been on the rise since 2012, except for the drop observed in 2015. The data show that 146 cases of rape against women and girls were recorded in 2012 compared with 164 cases in 2016 (figure 7.1.3).

7. GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

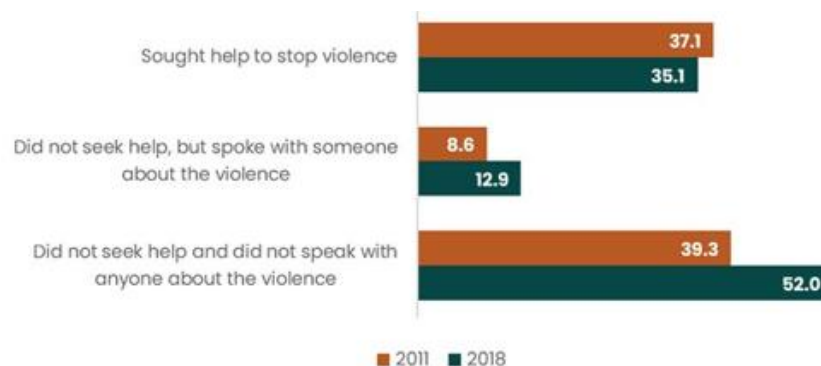
Female genital mutilation

Female genital mutilation is also considered a type of violence, which is a major obstacle to women's physical and economic well-being. Data from the 2004 DHS show that the prevalence of female genital mutilation in Cameroon is low at 1.4 percent. Lack of data limits the analysis of current prevalence of female genital mutilation.

7.2 Help seeking among women who have experienced violence

Women who have encountered physical or sexual violence generally face many obstacles when seeking help to end the violence. These may include the risk of stigmatization, lack of resources, insufficient information on institutional and judicial mechanisms for dealing with violence, or on available resources. Data show a slight deterioration in access to help for women who have encountered violence. It is estimated that in 2018, the percentage of women victims of physical or sexual violence who sought help fell slightly, from 37.1 percent in 2011 to 35.1 percent in 2018 (figure 7.2.1). Similarly, DHS data show that the percentage of women victims of physical or sexual violence who never sought help or told anyone about the violence incident increased from 39.3 percent in 2011 to 52.0 percent in 2018. However, there was an increase in the percentage of women victims of violence of a physical or sexual nature who did not seek help but confided in someone (from 8.6 percent in 2011 to 12.9 percent in 2018).

Figure 7.2.1: Proportion of women aged 15-49 who have experienced physical or sexual violence and sought help (%)



Source: Cameroon National Institute of Statistics, International Women's Day leaflet, 2021

7. GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

7.3 Perpetrators of sexual violence

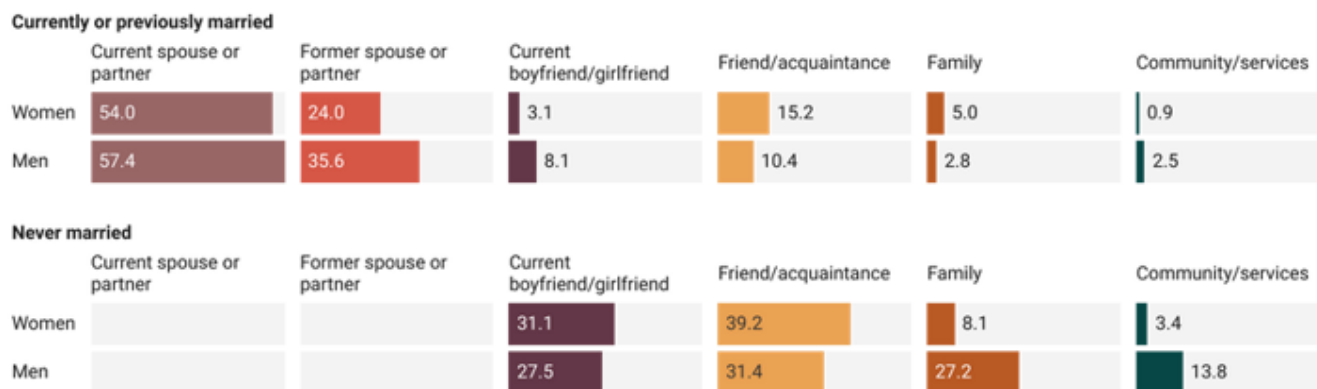
In 2018, DHS data show that, for victims of violence aged 15-49 who are currently married or have previously been married, most perpetrators of sexual violence are current or former intimate partners (figure 7.3.1). For never-married people, the majority of acts of sexual violence are committed by current/former boyfriends/girlfriends, friends or acquaintances.

Figure 7.3.1 shows that for women aged 15-49 who are currently or have previously been married and who have reported experiencing sexual violence, the perpetrators of these acts were mainly the current husband or partner (54.0 percent) and the former husband or partner (24.0 percent). Similarly, for men aged 15-49 who are currently or have previously been married and reported having experienced sexual violence, the perpetrators of these acts of violence were mainly the current wife or partner (57.4 percent) and the former wife or partner (35.6 percent). Among never-married respondents, 31.1 percent of women and 27.5 percent of men victims of sexual violence report a current or former partner as a perpetrator.

Married men are 2.5 times more likely than women (2.5 percent and 0.9 percent respectively) to be victims of sexual violence perpetrated by a member of their community or place of service (e.g., teachers, employers, work colleagues). Furthermore, among single individuals, men are 4 times more likely than women (13.8 percent and 3.4 percent respectively) to be victims of sexual violence perpetrated by a member of their community or place of service.

7. GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

Figure 7.3.1: Distribution of perpetrators of sexual violence by types of perpetrators, and by sex and marital status of the victim (%)



Sources: Cameroon National Institute of Statistics, Demographic and Health Survey, 2018

Note ^[14]: Number of people who have experienced sexual violence: women who are currently or have previously been married (n=638); never-married women (n=236); men who are currently or have previously been married (n=95); never-married men (n=48). Family=parents, step-parents, parents-in-law, siblings, step-siblings, siblings-in-law. Community/services= teachers, employers, co-workers, police, and military personnel.

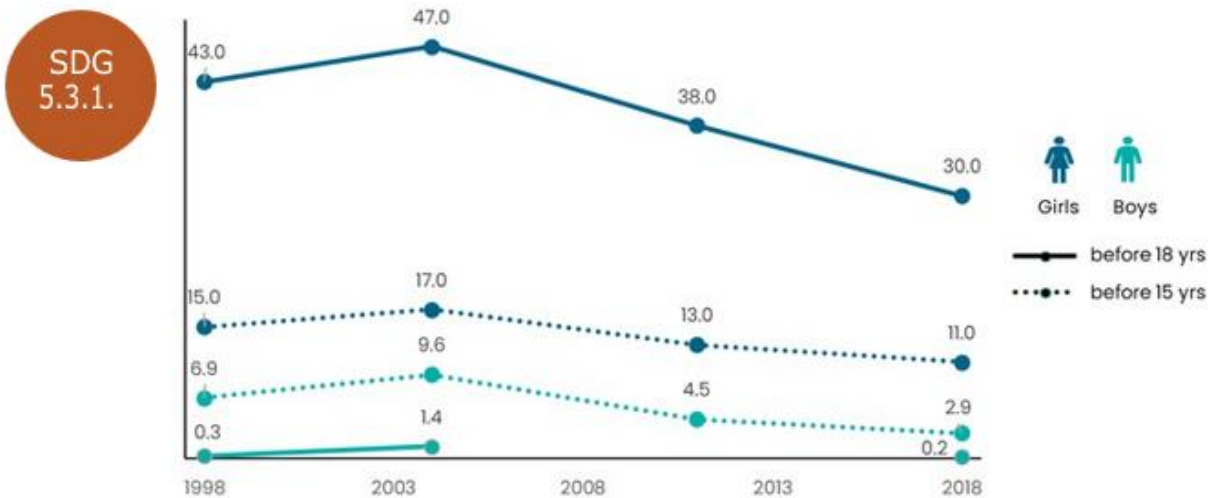
7.4 Child marriage

As in other sub-Saharan African countries, early marriage is a major problem in Cameroon. Affecting mainly young girls, early marriage has major consequences for their education and health. Demographic and Health Survey data show that, among women aged 20–24, 11 percent had already entered into their first union before the age of 15.0 and 30.0 percent before the age of 18. In contrast, the prevalence of early marriage is very low among men. Only 2.9 percent of men aged 20–24 reported having been married before the age of 15. This percentage drops to 0.2 percent for men who reported having been married before the age of 18 (figure 7.4.1).

^[14] The maximum number of perpetrators of sexual violence that can be reported varies between women who are already married and never-married women. Previously married women can report up to three perpetrators of sexual violence: their current or most recent husband, a former husband/partner if they have married more than once, and/or a non-husband/partner who was the perpetrator at the time of the first occurrence. Single women can only report one perpetrator, namely the person who perpetrated the sexual violence when it first occurred. For this reason, the percentage in Figure 7.3.1 can reach more than 100%.

7. GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

Figure 7.4.1: Distribution of persons aged 20-24 who were first married by exact age of 15 and 18, by sex (%)



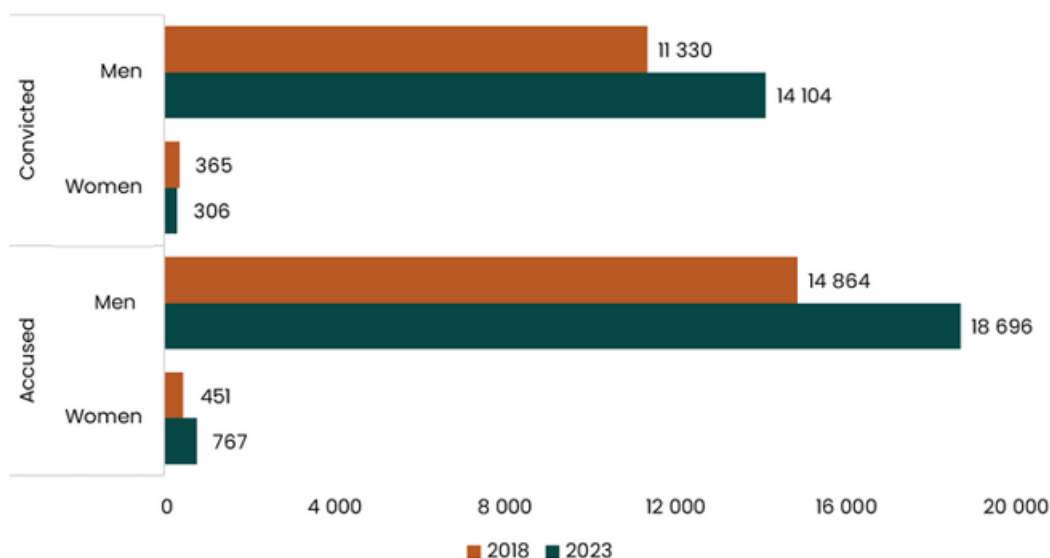
Sources: Cameroon National Institute of Statistics, Demographic and Health Survey, 1998, 2004, 2011, and 2018

8. PEACE AND JUSTICE

8.1 Prison population

In Cameroon the prison population is largely male. In fact, the number of accused^[15] women has notably increased between 2018-2023 from 451 to 767, and among men – from 14 864 to 18 696 (figure 8.1.1). In the same period, the number of convicted^[16] men has increased from 11 330 in 2018 to 14 104 in 2023 and is still significantly higher than that of women, which has slightly decreased in the same period from 365 to 306.

Figure 8.1.1: Number of accused and convicted persons, by sex (%)



Source: Cameroon National Institute of Statistics, Statistical Yearbook, 2019

^[15] According to the Cameroon legislation, "accused is any person who must appear before a trial court to answer for an offence classified as a contravention or délit and/or any person who must appear before a court of court to answer for an offence classified as a felony or a misdemeanor" (Cameroon, Law no. 2005- 007 of July 27, 2005 on the code of criminal procedure).

^[16] A convicted individual is one who has been found guilty of a criminal offense, following a trial, guilty plea, or plea of nolo contendere.

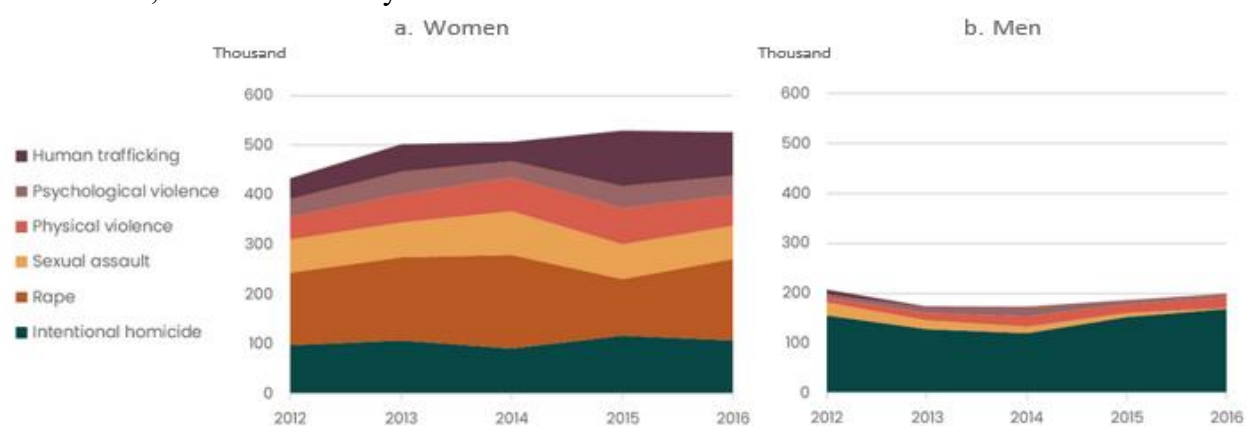
8. PEACE AND JUSTICE

8.2 Victims of crime

Between 2012 and 2016, the number of crime victims increased among both men and women. In 2012, there were 156 male and 98 female victims of intentional homicide (figure 8.2.1). In the same year, only women were victims of rape (146 cases) although both men (26) and women (66) were victims of sexual assault, of physical violence (9 men and 46 women), of psychological violence (7 men and 36 women), and of human trafficking (9 men and 41 women).

In 2016, these numbers rose mainly among women (figure 8.2.1). Intentional homicide, however, increased among both men and women, although remaining more prevalent among men (107 cases among women vs. 169 cases among men). The number of women who were victims of rape also rose, to 164 cases. In the same year, sexual assaults on men decreased but increased for women (67 cases among women vs. 2 among men). Incidents of physical violence increased in 2016 among both men (22 cases) and women (61 cases). In contrast, cases of physical and psychological violence fell (39 cases among women vs. 6 among men). In addition, cases of human trafficking rose among women (89 cases in 2016) but fell among men, with no cases recorded in 2016.

Figure 8.2.1: Number of victims of offences recorded by the General Delegation for National Security, by type of offence, sex and selected years



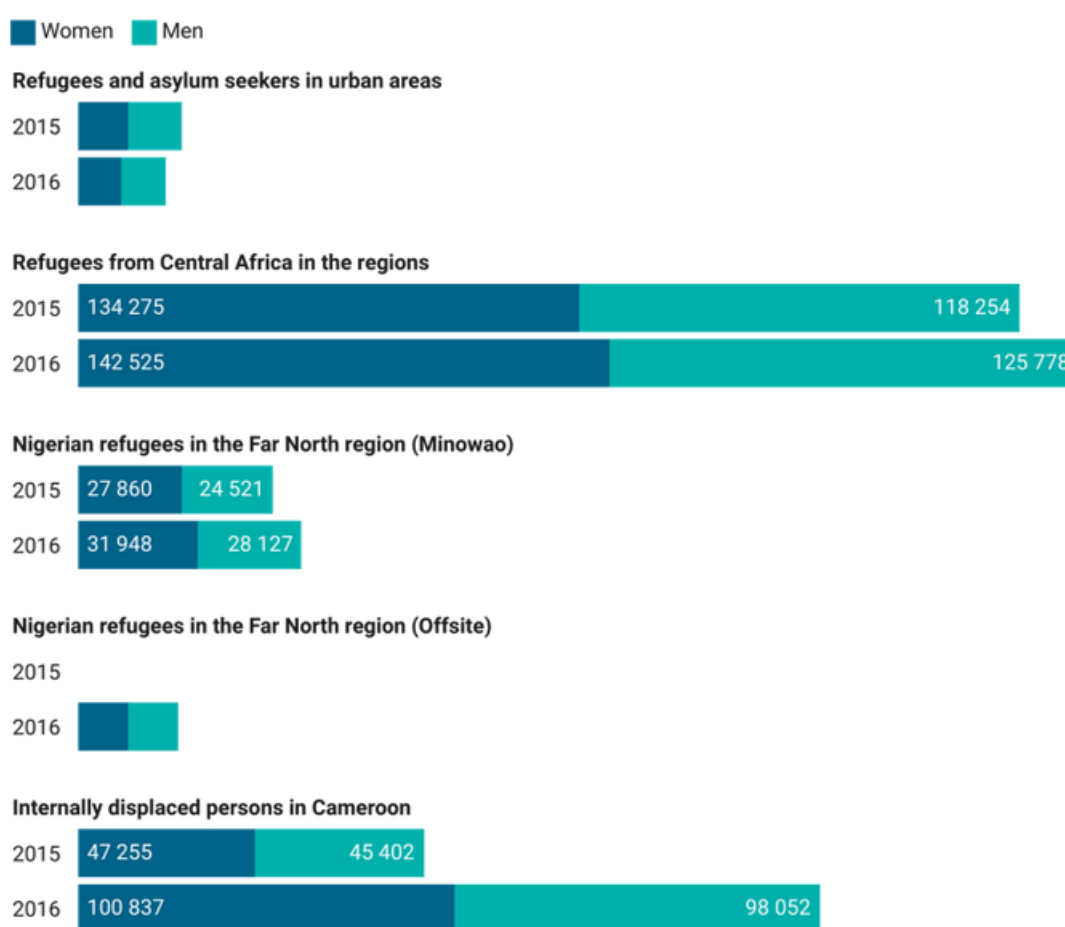
Source: Cameroon National Institute of Statistics, Statistical Yearbook, 2019

8. PEACE AND JUSTICE

8.3 Refugees and asylum seekers

As a result of internal crises and those affecting Cameroon’s neighboring countries, the numbers of refugees and internally displaced people have increased in recent years. Between 2015 and 2016, the number of refugees from Central Africa from 134,275 to 142,525 for women and from 118,254 to 125,778 for men (figure 8.3.1). Similarly, the number of Nigerian refugees in the Far North region increased, from 27,860 to 31,948 women and from 24,521 to 28,127 men.

Figure 8.3.1: Number of refugees and asylum seekers, by sex and selected years



Sources: Ministry of Territorial Administration and Ministry of External Relations, Statistical Yearbook, 2019

A review of national statistics on the number of refugees and asylum seekers located in urban areas shows more men than women (figure 8.3.1). Moreover, the number of refugees and asylum seekers living in

8. PEACE AND JUSTICE

urban areas decreased slightly between 2015 and 2016. Among women, this number fell from 13,237 in 2015 to 11,529 in 2016; among men, it dropped from 14,358 to 12,038 over the same period (figure 8.3.1).

The numbers of the internally displaced more than doubled between 2015 and 2016, testifying to the effects of the crisis in the Northwest and Southwest (figure 8.3.1). More women find themselves displaced internally. Between 2015 and 2016, the number of internally displaced women rose from 47,255 to 100,837, and the number of internally displaced men increased from 45,402 to 98,052.



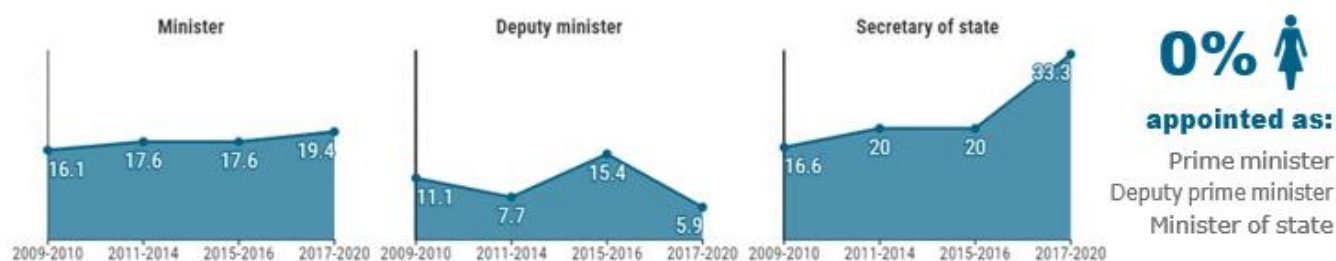
9. PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING

9.1 Appointed positions

Ministerial positions

Women in Cameroon are poorly represented in appointed positions. Despite increasing gradually between 2019 and 2020, women's representation in ministerial positions remains low (figure 9.1.1). The proportion of women in ministerial positions rose from 16.1 percent in 2009–2010 to 19.4 percent in 2017–2020. Similarly, the percentage proportion of women at the Secretary of State level has risen from 16.6 percent in 2009–10 to 33.3 percent in 2017–20. By contrast, the share of female deputy ministers fell by half over the same period, from 11.1 percent to 5.9 percent. There are also no women in the top political posts of prime minister, deputy prime minister and minister of state.

Figure 9.1.1: Proportion of ministerial positions in the government occupied by women, by type of position and selected years (%)



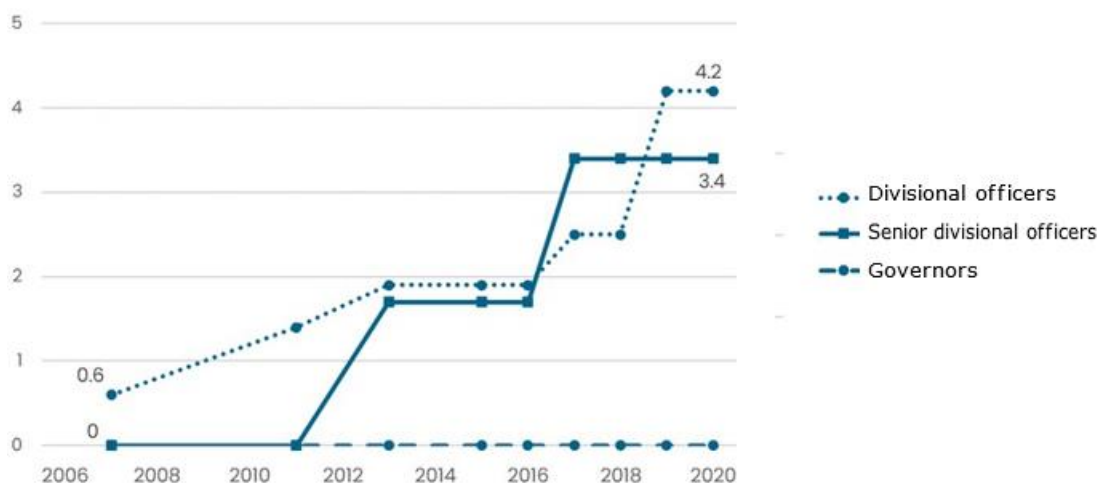
Source: Cameroon National Institute of Statistics, International Women's Day leaflet, 2021 (Decree no. 2011/408 of December 09, 2011 on the organization of the Government, amended and supplemented by decree no. 2018/190 of March 02, 2018; Decree no. 2011/409 of December 09, 2011 appointing a Prime Minister, Head of Government; Decree no. 2015/434 of October 02, 2015 reorganizing the Government; Decree no. 2019/001 of January 04, 2019 appointing a Prime Minister; Decree no. 2019/002 of January 04, 2019 reorganizing the Government)

Governor, senior divisional officer and divisional officer positions

Women also have very low representation in the posts of governors, senior divisional officers and divisional officers. National statistics show that Cameroon has no women governors. Moreover, despite a slight increase in recent years, in 2020 less than 5 percent of senior divisional officers (3.4 percent) and divisional officers (4.2 percent) were women (figure 9.1.2).

9. PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING

Figure 9.1.2: Proportion of governor, senior divisional officer, and divisional officer positions occupied by women, by selected years (%)

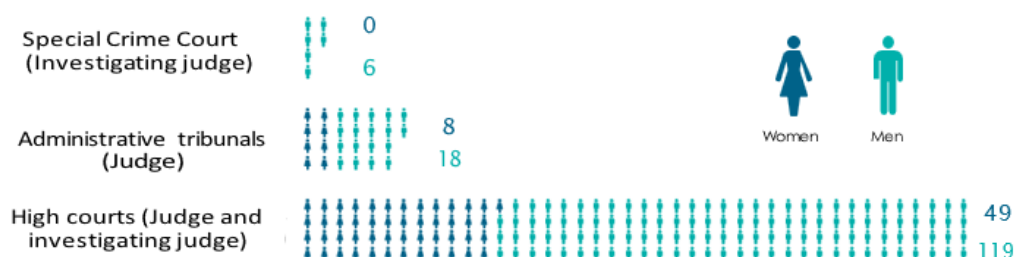


Source: Cameroon National Institute of Statistics, International Women’s Day leaflet, 2021 (<https://www.journalducameroun.com/lintegralite-nominations-prefets>; Decree N° 2017/461 of September 04, 2017 appointing Subprefects; DAG MINAT, Decree N°2020/758 of December 18, 2020 appointing Senior divisional officers, Decree N°2020/759 of December 18, 2020 appointing Divisional officers).

Judicial positions

When it comes to occupying judicial posts in Cameroon, women are poorly represented in all positions. In 2021, all investigating judges at the Special Criminal Court were men (figure 9.1.3).

Figure 9.1.3: Number of judges, by sex and type of jurisdiction



Source: Cameroon Department of General Affairs, Ministry of Justice, 2021

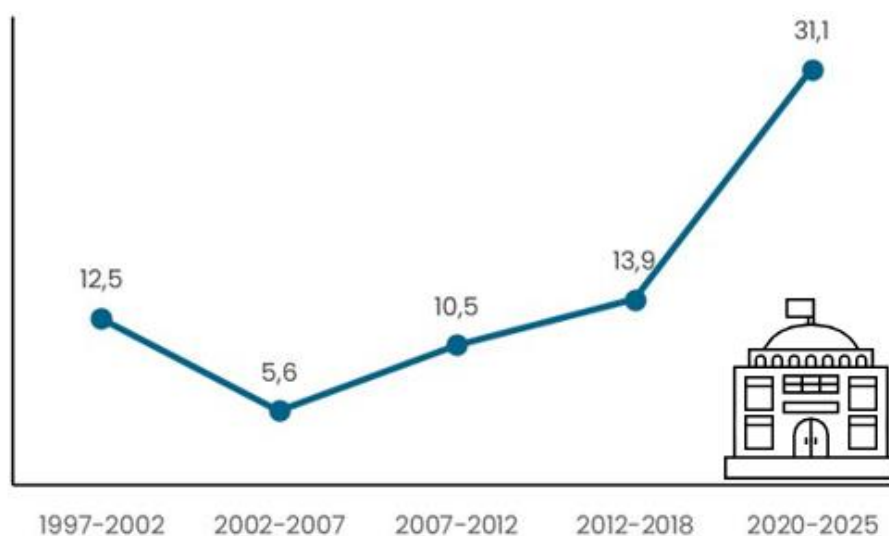
9. PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING

9.2 Elected offices and managerial positions

Positions in the National Assembly

Gender disparities also exist in representation in Cameroon’s National Assembly and Senate. In the period 1997–2002, women held 12.5 percent of seats in the National Assembly (figure 9.1.2). This proportion has risen steadily, reaching 31.1 percent in 2020.

Figure 9.2.1: Proportion of National Assembly seats occupied by women, by selected years (%)



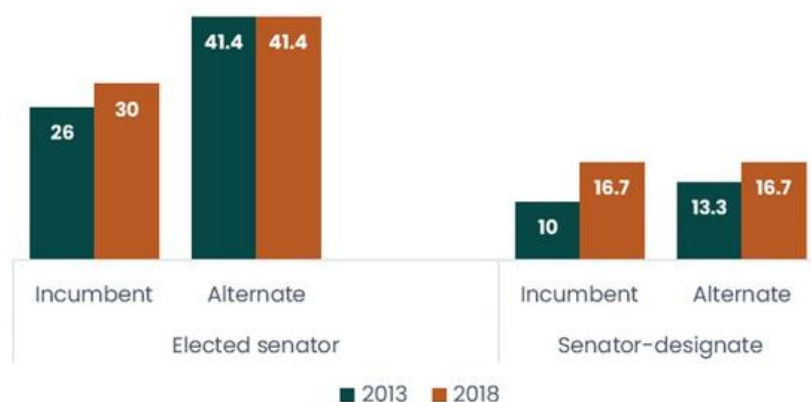
Source: Cameroon National Institute of Statistics, International Women’s Day leaflet, 2021

Positions in the Senate

Between 2013 and 2018, women’s participation in the Senate also improved slightly as seen in figure 9.2.2 below.

9. PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING

Figure 9.2.2: Proportion of seats occupied by women in the Senate, by type of office and selected years (%)



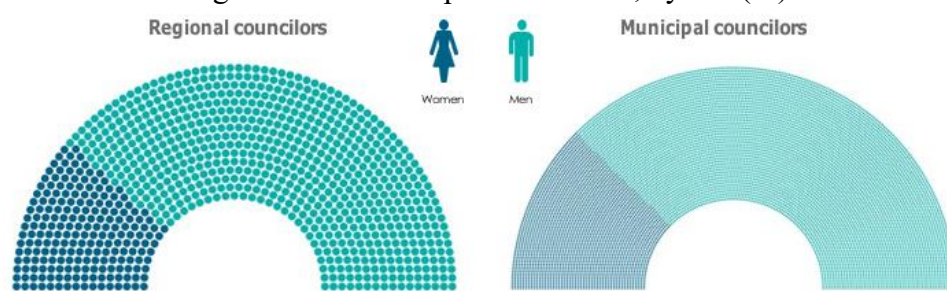
Source: Cameroon National Institute of Statistics, International Women’s Day leaflet, 2021; Cameroon Tribune n°10333/6534 of April 30, 2013; Presidential Decree n°2013/149 of May 08, 2013. <https://www.journalducameroun.com/resultats-senatoriales-2018-liste-complete-70-senateurs-elus/> <https://www.journalducameroun.com/cameroun-liste-30-senateurs-nommés-paul-biya/>

The proportion of women in the position of elected and titular Senator rose from 26 percent to 30 percent between 2013 and 2018. In addition, the proportion of women among appointed and titular Senators rose from 10.0 percent to 16.7 percent.

Regional and municipal councillors

Inequalities in nominative positions also appear within decentralized local authorities. Among municipal councillors, about 25 percent are female. This proportion is lower among regional councillors: 23 percent of regional councillors are women whereas 77 percent are men (figure 9.2.3).

Figure 9.2.3: Distribution of regional and municipal councillors, by sex (%)



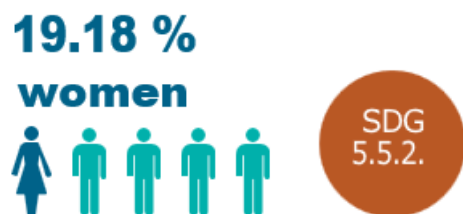
Source: Ministry of Decentralization and Local Development, 2020

9. PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING

Managerial positions

Sustainable Development Goal indicator 5.5.2 measures the proportion of women in managerial positions. This indicator makes it possible to assess the level of gender disparities in terms of access to positions of responsibility. It gives an indication of progress toward full and equitable participation of women in all spheres of decision-making. When it comes to occupying positions of responsibility in Cameroon, women are very poorly represented (figure 9.2.4). Data from the Third Survey on Employment and the Informal Sector in Cameroon show that 19.18 percent of women versus 80.82 percent of men hold positions of responsibility in Cameroon. This sharp disparity between women and men in access to positions of responsibility testifies to the inequitable participation of women in all spheres of decision-making.

Figure 9.2.4: Proportion of women in managerial positions (%)



Source: Cameroon National Institute of Statistics, Third Survey on Employment and the Informal Sector in Cameroon, 2021

9. PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING

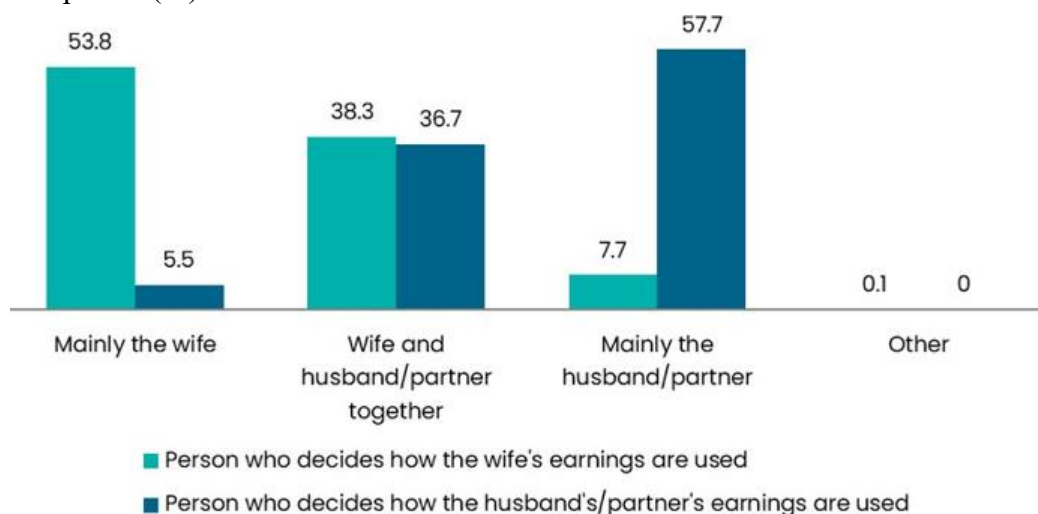
9.3 Participation in household decisions

Control over use of household income by women and their spouses

Decision-making power over the use of a woman's income provides a measure of her level of financial autonomy, and thus of her status within the household. Overall, 53.8 percent of women said they decide for themselves how to use the money they earn (figure 9.3.1), suggesting that more than half of all women are financially independent. A smaller proportion of the women surveyed indicated that they participate jointly with their partners in making decisions concerning the management of their earnings. Overall, 9 out of 10 women are involved in deciding how to use their income. In contrast, 7.7 percent of women indicated that their partner alone makes this decision.

When it comes to managing their partner's earnings, over half of women (57.7 percent) are not involved in the decision-making process. Only 5.5 percent of women make decisions on their own about managing their partner's earnings, and 36.7 percent of women indicated that they make decisions concerning the management of their partner's earnings in consultation with their partner (figure 9.3.1).

Figure 9.3.1: Proportion of women who participate in decisions about the use of household income, by type of participation (%)



Sources: Cameroon National Institute of Statistics, Demographic and Health Survey, 2018

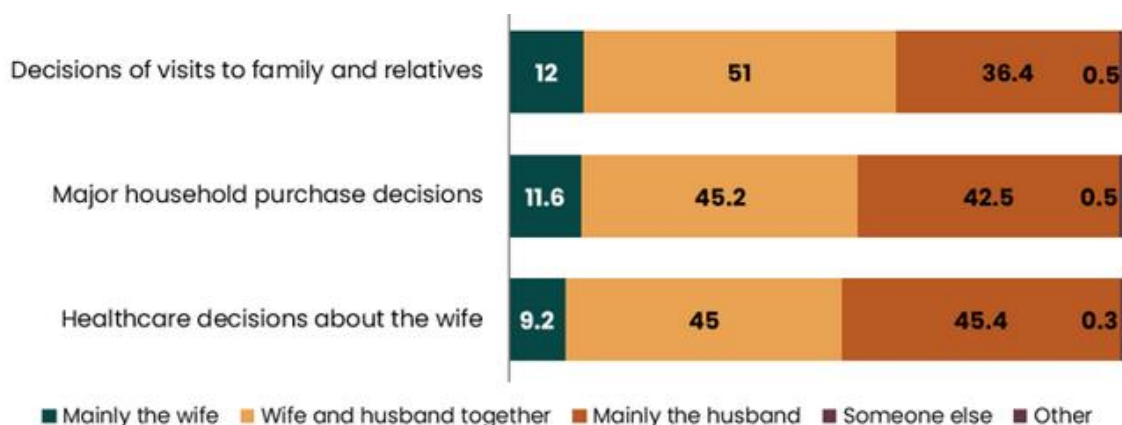
9. PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING

Women’s participation in major household decisions

Some gender disparities also exist in making major household decisions (figure 9.3.2). Nearly 12.0 percent of women indicated that they alone make decisions concerning major household purchases and family visits, and 9.2 percent of women make the decisions about their own health care.

In addition, the proportion of women who participate jointly with their partners in making important household decisions is 45.2 percent for major household purchases, 45.0 percent for women’s health care, and 51 percent for family visits. Overall, more than 50 percent of women participate alone or jointly with their husbands in making important household decisions.

Figure 9.3.2: Proportion of women who participate in decision-making about family visits, major household purchases, and women's health care, by type of participation (alone, jointly, or no participation) (%)



Sources: Cameroon National Institute of Statistics, Demographic and Health Survey, 2018

A1. ANNEX

Conventions on the rights of women and girls		
#	Convention	Date of ratification
1	Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948	12/10/1948
2	Underground Work (Women) Convention, 1935 No. 45	09/03/1962
3	Maternity Protection Convention No. 3, 1919	05/25/1970
4	Convention No. 49 concerning Night Work by Women (Revised), 1948	05/25/1970
5	Night Work of Children (Industrial) Convention (Revised), 1948	05/25/1970
6	Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 No. 100	05/25/1970
7	Convention on the Nationality of Married Women, 1958	//
8	Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age and Registration of Marriages, 1964	//
9	Global action for the participation of women in sustainable and equitable development (Agenda 21, chapter 24)	//
10	Maternity Protection Convention No. 103 (Revised), 1952	//
11	Convention on the Political Rights of Women, 1954	//
12	United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women adopted in 1979 and entered into force in 1981	1993
13	Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) 1990	02/10/1993
14	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) adopted in 1979 and entered into force in 1981	08/23/1994
15	Worst Forms of Child Labor Convention No. 182, 1999	06/05/2002
16	Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)	2009
17	African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance adopted in 2007 and entered into force in 2012	2010
18	Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women (Maputo Protocol), 2003	05/28/2010
19	Resolution A/C.3/67/21/Rev. on the elimination of female genital mutilation	2012

A1. ANNEX

Of the nineteen (19) global actions, conventions, charters, protocols, declarations, and resolutions relating to the rights of women and girls, Cameroon has already signed and ratified fourteen (14). The remaining five (5) are fundamental to the development of women and girls in society. Most of the conventions date from before Cameroon's independence in 1960, so it is important that Cameroon signs and ratifies the remaining five (5) of them and specifically the following ones:

- Convention on the Nationality of Married Women, 1958;
- Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages, 1962;
- Maternity Protection Convention (Revised), 1952;
- Convention on the Political Rights of Women, 1954, etc.

